



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

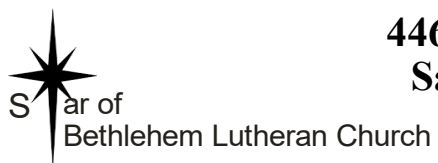


“Whoever  
loses their  
life for me  
will find it.”

Matthew 16:25b



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, September 3rd, 2023 10:00 a.m.*

### Fourteenth Sunday after PENTECOST

**Theme of the day:** In the struggles of daily life, we can be tempted to question God or join in with the world or give up the fight. By means of contrition and repentance the Christian is renewed for service in the kingdom of God. Such service is our spiritual worship.

## WELCOME

A warm welcome to our friends and visitors! Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is eager to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. If you are a new or long-time resident of the Central Coast looking for a church home, we invite you to meet with us at the close of this worship service or at your convenience. All are welcome to stay for refreshments in the fellowship hall.

**Families** are encouraged to worship together. If you need to step out with your children, the service can be seen and heard in the fellowship hall or narthex area. Feel free to enter and return at any time.

## OUR MISSION

Our congregation exists for the purpose of "HOLDING OUT THE WORD OF LIFE." This is accomplished by faithfully preserving and proclaiming all of God's inerrant word, and administering the Sacraments as they were instituted by Christ.

**OPENING HYMN: # 601 “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”**

♪ **All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.  
Serve him serve with joy, his praises tell,  
come now before him and rejoice!**

**Know that the Lord is God indeed;  
he formed us all without our aid.  
We are the flock he comes to feed,  
the sheep who by his hand were made.**

**O enter then his gates with joy,  
within his courts his praise proclaim.  
Let thankful songs your tongues employ  
O, bless and magnify his name.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**Trust that the Lord our God is good,  
his mercy is forever sure.  
His faithfulness at all times stood  
and shall from age to age endure.**

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.** (*spoken*)

M: God invites us to come into his presence to worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **♪ Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **♪ Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **♪ Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: **♪ Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

**♪ O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.  
Almighty God, merciful Father,  
you crown our life with your love.  
You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;  
you make us pure and holy in your sight.  
You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.  
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.  
O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father,  
you came to live with us;  
you made your Father known;  
you washed us from our sins in your own blood.  
You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!  
O Lord, our Lord,  
how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

M: Almighty God, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  Amen.

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 15:15-21**

**<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you understand. Remember me and care for me.**

**Take vengeance for me on those who persecute me.**

**You are slow to anger.**

**Do not take me away.**

**Keep in mind that for your sake I bear disgrace.**

**<sup>16</sup>Your words came to me, and I devoured them.**

**Your words became my joy, the delight of my heart,**

**because I bear your name,**

**O LORD God of Armies.**

**<sup>17</sup>I did not sit with the band of partygoers,**

**nor did I celebrate with them.**

**I sat alone, because your hand was upon me.**

**You filled me with indignation.**

**<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unending?**

**Why is my wound incurable, refusing to heal?**

**Will you be as deceptive as an intermittent stream to me,**

**like a source of water that a person can't depend on?**

**<sup>19</sup>Therefore this is what the LORD says.**

**If you repent, I will take you back,**

**so that you may stand before me.**

**If what you say is worthwhile and not worthless,**

**you will be my spokesman.**

**They must turn to you, but you must not turn to them.**

**<sup>20</sup>I will make you like a bronze wall to this people.**

**They will fight against you, but they will not overcome you,**

**because I am with you to save you**

**and to rescue you, declares the LORD.**

**<sup>21</sup>I will rescue you from the hand of the wicked,**

**and I will deliver you from the grasp of the ruthless.**

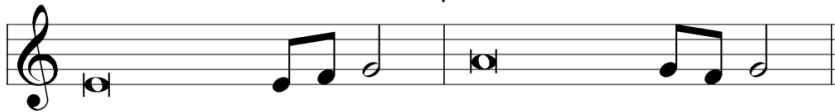
**PSALM of the Day: Psalm 31**

*Refrain*



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and  
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my  
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

*Psalm tone*



\*

In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;  
deliver me in your righteousness.

Be my rock of refuge,  
a strong fortress to save me.

Into your hands I commit my spirit;  
redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.

*Refrain*

My times are in your hands;  
save me in your unfailing love.

How great is your goodness,  
which you have stored up for those who fear you.

You heard my cry for mercy  
when I called to you for help.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*Refrain*

M: Alleluia. If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. Alleluia. (*Matthew 16:24*)

C:  Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**These words are written that we may believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**


## **SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:18-25**

**<sup>18</sup>For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.**

**<sup>19</sup>In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup>For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope <sup>21</sup>that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.**

**<sup>22</sup>For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup>And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. <sup>24</sup>Indeed, it was for this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he already sees? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for something we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance.**

## **HYMN: # 694 “Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken”**

 **Jesus, I my cross have taken,  
all to leave and follow you;  
destitute, despised, forsaken,  
you on earth once suffered, too.  
Perish ev’ry fond ambition,  
all I’ve ever hoped or known;  
yet how rich is my condition,  
God and heav’n are still my own!**

**Let the world despise and leave me;  
they have left my Savior, too.  
Human hearts and looks deceive me;  
you are not, like them, untrue.  
And since you have smiled upon me,  
God of wisdom, love, and might,  
foes may hate and friends may shun me;  
show your face, and all is bright.**

**Go, then, earthly fame and treasure!  
Come, disaster, scorn, and pain!  
In your service pain is pleasure, with your favor loss is gain.  
I have called you Abba, Father; you my all in all shall be.  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather,  
all must work for good to me.**

**Haste, my soul, from grace to glory,  
armed by faith and winged by prayer;  
all but heav'n is transitory,  
God's own hand shall guide you there.  
Soon shall end this earthly story,  
swift shall pass the pilgrim days,  
hope soon change to heav'nly glory,  
faith to sight and prayer to praise.**

#### **SERMON: Matthew 16:21-26**

**<sup>21</sup>From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again.**

**<sup>22</sup>Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you."**

**<sup>23</sup>But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a snare to me because you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men."**

**<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. <sup>25</sup>In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?"**



## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## OFFERING

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**M:** Lord God, our Maker and Preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**C:** **We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

**M:** You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**C:** **We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

**M:** Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

- C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**
- M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.
- C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**
- M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.
- C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

- C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Holy Communion, will be celebrated in today's service. The Bible teaches us that Jesus offers us his body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins in the Lord's Supper. The Bible also instructs us that receiving the Lord's Supper together is a public expression of our complete "oneness," or unity of faith.

Because the Lord's Supper is an expression of our unity in faith, we invite to the Lord's Supper only those who have expressed that unity with us through membership in our congregation or one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), or our sister church body, the ELS.

If you are a guest from another Christian church, we kindly ask that you simply refrain from participation in our celebration of the Lord's Supper today. We don't want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of declaring your agreement with our beliefs before you have had a chance to learn more.

## THE HOLY SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **♪ And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **♪ We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **♪ It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

**♪ Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glory.  
You are my God, and I will exalt you.  
I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glory.**

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **♪ Amen.**

**♪ O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. Amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMN: # 831 “Why Should Cross and Trial”**

♪ **Why should cross and trial grieve me?  
Christ is near with his cheer; never will he leave me.  
Who can rob me of the heaven  
that God's Son for me won when his life was given?**

**When life's troubles rise to meet me,  
though their weight may be great, they will not defeat me.  
God, my loving Savior, sees them;  
he who knows all my woes knows how best to end them.**

**God gives me my days of gladness,  
and I will trust him still when he sends me sadness.  
God is good; his love attends me  
day by day, come what may, guides me and defends me.**

**From God's joy can nothing sever, for I am his dear lamb,  
he my Shepherd ever.  
I am his because he gave me his own blood for my good,  
by his death to save me.**

**Since I know God never fails me,  
in his voice I'll rejoice when grim death assails me.  
Trusting in my Savior's merit,  
safe at last, troubles past, I shall heav'n inherit.**

## **THANKSGIVING**

*Please stand.*

♪ **Thank the Lord and sing his praise.  
Tell ev'ryone what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice  
and proudly bear his name.  
He renews his promises and leads  
his people forth in joy  
With shouts of thanksgiving.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again,

and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.


**C:**  **Amen.**

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C:**  **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**HYMN: # 867 “Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near”**

 **Afflicted saint to Christ draw near,  
your Savior's gracious promise hear;  
his faithful Word you can believe,  
that as your days your strength shall be.**

**Your faith is weak, your foes are strong,  
and if the conflict should be long,  
the Lord will make the tempter flee,  
that as your days your strength shall be.  
So, sing with joy afflicted one;  
the battle's fierce, but the victory's won!  
God shall supply all that you need;  
yes, as your days your strength shall be.**

**Should persecution rage and flame,  
still trust in your Redeemer's name.  
In fiery trials you shall see  
that as your days your strength shall be.  
So, sing with joy afflicted one;  
the battle's fierce, but the victory's won!  
God shall supply all that you need;  
yes, as your days your strength shall be.**

**When called to bear your weighty cross,  
or sore affliction, pain, or loss,  
or deep distress or poverty,  
still as your days your strength shall be  
So, sing with joy afflicted one;  
the battle's fierce, but the victory's won!  
God shall supply all that you need;  
yes, as your days your strength shall be.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service were given to the glory of God by Shayleen Evers in celebration of Liam's birthday.

**PRAYERS:** Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Molly Webb (and brother, Jim), Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Roberta Gowin, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Sam Daugherty, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Judy Washburn, and Jerry Yonke.

### **THIS WEEK**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>ESL (English as a Second Language), 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.</b> <b>ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Bible Class &amp; Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Worship, 10:00 a.m.</b> <b>Fellowship lunch and Voters</b>

# PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(cf. page 156 in the front of Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal)

**Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?**

*A: He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

**Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?**

*A: I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

**Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?**

*A: I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

**Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?**

*A: His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

**Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?**

*A: In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

**Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?**

*A: I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

**Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?**

*A: I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

*Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.*

