



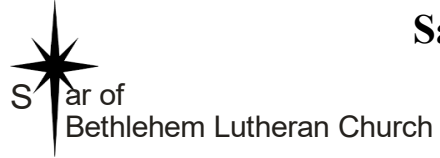
**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

*“Where two or three
gather in my name,
there am I with them.”*

Matthew 18:20



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 805-937-0339
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, September 10, 2023 10:00 a.m.

The Fifteenth Sunday after PENTECOST

Theme of the day: The Church fulfills her role as her brother's keeper. The keys of the kingdom have been placed into our hands. It is our privilege and responsibility to bind and to loose — to carry out the task Christ has appointed us to on his behalf. We reach out with Law and Gospel for the sake of those whom Jesus redeemed.

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: # 743 “I Hear the Savior Calling”

♪ **I hear the Savior calling! The gospel comes to me;
my eyes once closed in blindness, are opened now to see
that I myself was helpless to live eternally,
but, dying, Christ did save me, and now he calls for me!**

**I hear the Savior calling! He leads a soul to me,
a soul in bitter anguish, one needing to be free.
The gift I have to offer is Christ, my Lord’s decree
that all have been forgiven; my Savior calls for me!**

**I hear the Savior calling! He gives this charge to me:
to serve the best I’m able, whate’er the call may be.
Thus hand in hand with others who share the gospel key
we spread the gospel tidings; my Savior calls for me!**

**I hear the Savior calling! He changes hearts for me;
from door to door I witness to share my Savior’s plea.
Yet nothing can be added, no word on bended knee,
beyond the simple gospel; my Savior calls for me!**

Please stand for last verse:

**I hear the Savior calling! His call has urgency;
each moment souls are dying, soon comes eternity.
And so, my precious Savior, this is my humble plea:
prepare me for my mission, for you are calling me!**

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)*

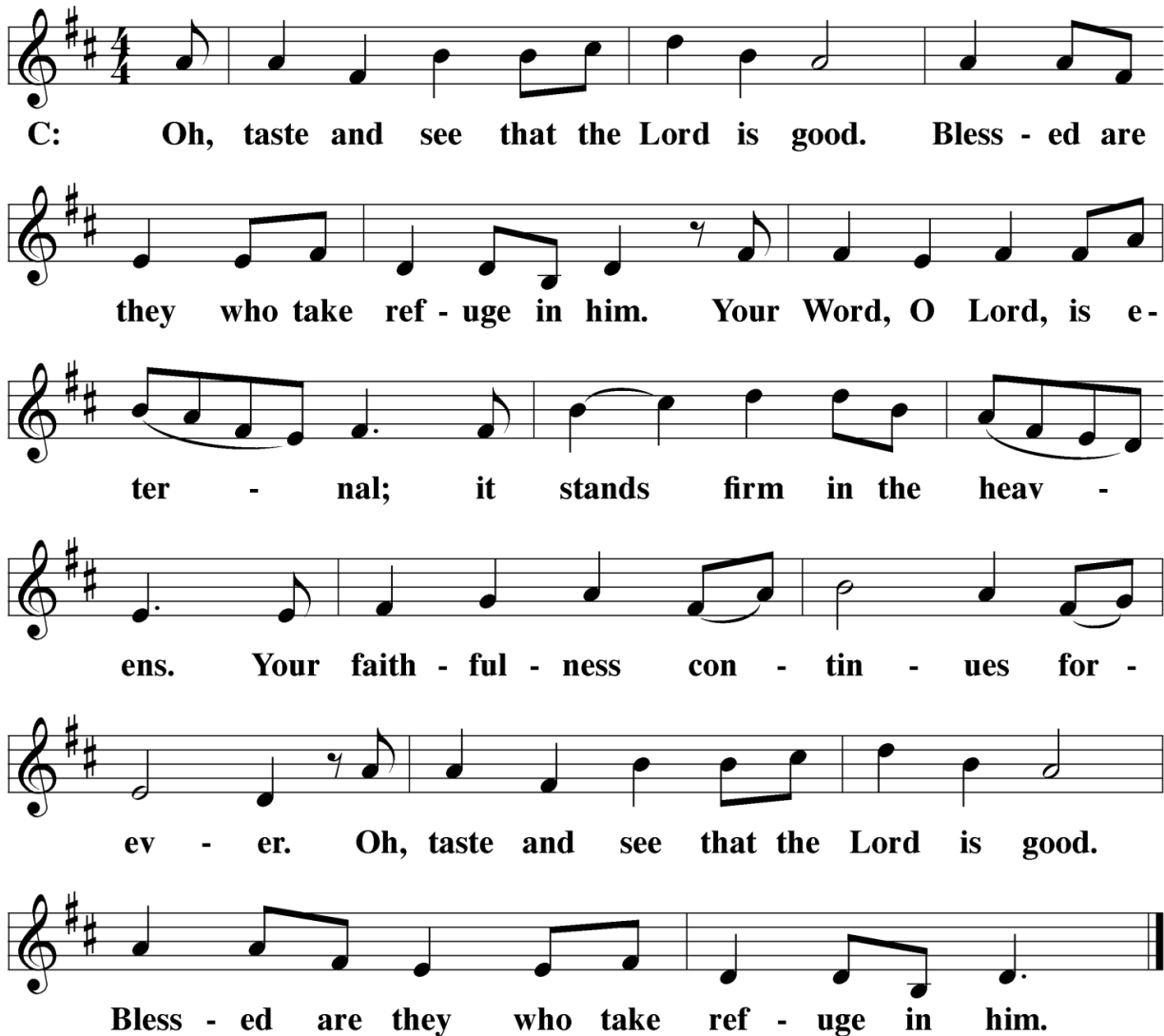
M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

M: O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷But I have appointed you, son of man, to be a watchman for the house of Israel. So whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you are to warn them from me. ⁸When I say to a wicked man, “Wicked man, you shall surely die,” if you do not speak to warn the wicked man against his way, that wicked man will die because of his guilt, but I will also hold you responsible for his blood. ⁹But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he will die because of his guilt, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰So you, son of man, say the following to the house of Israel.

This is what you people are saying: “Certainly our rebellion and our sins weigh us down, and because of them we are rotting away. How then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, “As I live, declares the LORD God, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from their way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why should you die, O house of Israel?”

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 32

Refrain



Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;



re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

Psalm tone



Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,*
whose sins are covered.

When I kept silent, your hand was heavy upon me;*
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

**Then I acknowledged my sin to you*
and did not cover up my iniquity.**

**I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”*
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Refrain

**You are my hiding place;*
you will protect me from trouble.**

**Many are the woes of the wicked,*
but the LORD’S unfailing love surrounds those who trust in
him.**

**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

Verse of the Day:

M: Alleluia. God our Savior wants all people to be saved and to come
to the knowledge of the truth. Alleluia. (*1 Timothy 2:4*)

**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: Galatians 2:11-16

¹¹But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly wrong. ¹²For before some people came from James, he ate with the Gentiles. But when those people came, he drew back and separated himself, because he feared those from the circumcision group. ¹³And the rest of the Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴But when I saw that they were not acting according to the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of all of them, “If you, a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, why do you compel the Gentiles to live like the Jews?”

¹⁵“We are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners. ¹⁶We know that a person is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. So we also believed in Christ Jesus that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law.

HYMN: # 656 “As Surely as I Live, God Said”

♪ “As surely as I live,” God said,
“I would not see the sinner dead,
but that he turn from error’s ways,
repent, and live through endless days.”

And so our Lord gave this command:
“Go forth and preach in ev’ry land;
bestow on all my pard’ning grace
who will repent of sinful ways.

“All those whose sins you thus remit
I truly pardon and acquit,
and those whose sins you do retain
condemned and guilty shall remain.

“What you will bind, that bound shall be;
what you will loose, that shall be free;
unto my Church the keys are giv’n
to op’n and close the gates of heav’n.”

**The words which absolution give
are his who died that we might live;
the minister whom Christ has sent
is but his humble instrument.**

**When ministers lay on their hands,
absolved by Christ the sinner stands;
he who by grace the Word believes
forgiveness, sure and sweet, receives.**

**Praise God the Father and the Son
and Holy Spirit, Three in One,
as was, is now, and so shall be
forever and eternally!**

SERMON: Matthew 18:15-20

¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his sin just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have regained your brother. ¹⁶But if he will not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And, if he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as an unbeliever or a tax collector. ¹⁸Amen I tell you: Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Amen I tell you again: If two of you on earth agree to ask for anything, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven. ²⁰In fact where two or three have gathered together in my name, there I am among them.”

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN: # 654:1-3,6,7 “Jesus Sinners Does Receive”

**♪ Jesus sinners does receive; oh, may all this saying ponder
who in sin’s delusions live and from God and heaven wander.
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners does receive.**

**We deserve but grief and shame,
yet his words, rich grace revealing,
pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
here their ills have perfect healing
who with humble hearts believe: Jesus sinners does receive.**

**Sheep that from the fold did stray are not by the Lord forsaken;
weary souls who lost their way
are by Christ, the shepherd, taken
in his arms that they may live: Jesus sinners does receive.**

**Now my conscience is at peace, from the law I stand acquitted,
Christ has purchased my release and my ev’ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners does receive.**

**Jesus sinners does receive, even I have been forgiven.
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to him I cleave: Jesus sinners does receive.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

**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.

CLOSING HYMN: # 839 "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

**♪ Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure:
cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save and thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to thy cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress,
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Chris and Terry on the occasion of their 52nd anniversary.

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, Jerry Yonke, and Sandy Murphy.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday **Circuit Meeting** (Tarzana)
 ESL (English as a Second Language), 6:00 p.m.

Thursday **Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.**
 ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Sunday **Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.**
 Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

LWMS Fall Rally

October 14, 2023
9 am - 2 pm

Star of Bethlehem

4465 S Blosser Rd
Santa Maria, CA
805-937-0339

Speakers - Pastor Dave & Toni Koelpin

“Outside the Box”

Registration starts at 8:30 am — \$5 registration fee — ends at 2:00 pm

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