



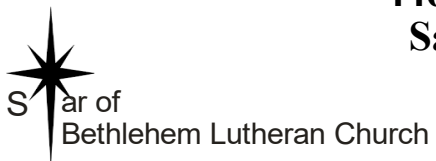
**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



[The LORD]
looked for justice,
but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness,
but heard cries of distress.



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, October 8, 2023 10:00 a.m.

The Nineteenth Sunday after PENTECOST



Theme of the day: Faith is the very foundation of the Christian life. Faith, worked by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, allows us to do great things for the Lord and see eternal life as our ultimate goal. Let us thank God daily for his gift of faith.

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: # 920 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

♪ **Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion’s help forever and our confidence alone.**

**To this temple, where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come with all your loving-kindness,
hear your people as they pray;
and your fullest benediction speak within these walls today.**

**Grant, we pray, to all your faithful
all the gifts they ask to gain;
what they gain from you forever with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Praise and honor to the Father, praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!**

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*)

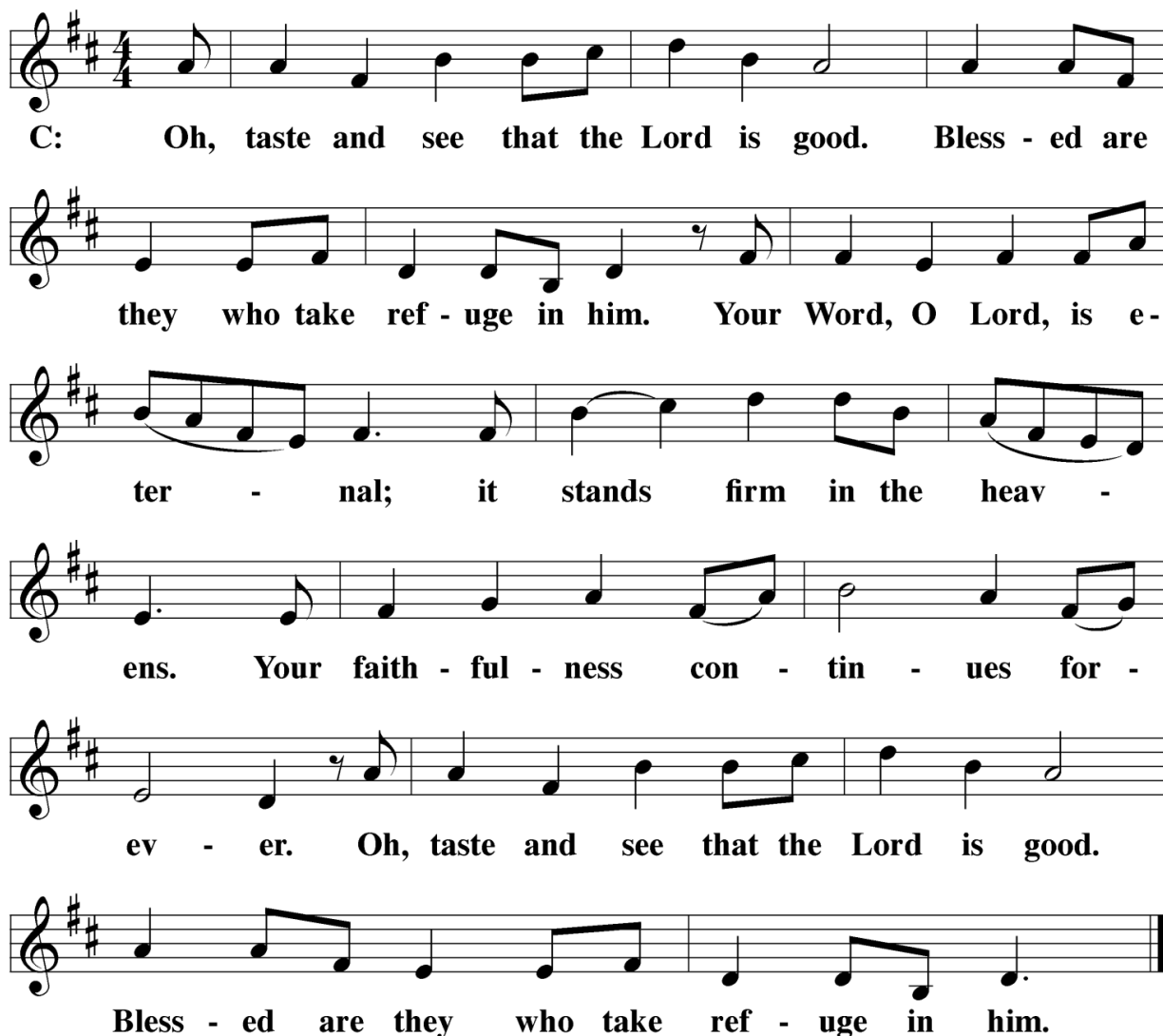
M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

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: Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; 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: Philippians 3:12-21

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus also took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself to have

taken hold of it yet, but there is one thing I do: Forgetting the things that are behind and straining toward the things that are ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Therefore, let all of us who are mature continue to think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this to you too. ¹⁶Only let us think the same thing and walk in line with what we already have attained.

¹⁷Brothers, join together in imitating me and in paying attention to those who are walking according to the pattern we gave you.

¹⁸To be sure, many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. I told you about them often, and now I am saying it while weeping.

¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their appetite, and their glory is in their shame. They are thinking only about earthly things.

²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. We are eagerly waiting for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹By the power that enables him to subject all things to himself, he will transform our humble bodies to be like his glorious body.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 45

Refrain



Great are the works of the Lord. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-



lu - ia! Great are the works of the Lord.

Psalm tone



My heart is stirred by a noble theme*
as I recite my verses for the King.

You are the most excellent of men,*
and your lips have been anointed with grace.

**Gird your sword upon your side, O Mighty One;*
clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.**

**In your majesty ride forth victoriously;*
let your right hand display awesome deeds.**

Refrain

**Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;*
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.**

**You love righteousness and hate wickedness;*
therefore God has anointed you with the oil of joy.**

**I will perpetuate your memory through all generations;*
therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.**

**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. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus
for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would
walk in them. Alleluia. (*Ephesians 2:10*)**

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

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 21:33-43

³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. He leased it out to some tenant farmers and went away on a journey. ³⁴When the time approached to harvest the fruit, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵The tenant farmers seized his servants. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶Then the landowner sent even more servants than the first time. The tenant farmers treated them the same way. ³⁷Finally, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. ³⁸But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance!’ ³⁹They took him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰So when the landowner comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?”

⁴¹They told him, “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end. Then he will lease out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him his fruit when it is due.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?”

⁴³“That is why I tell you the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruit.

HYMN: # 397:1,2,3,5,7 “My Song Is Love Unknown”

♪ My song is love unknown, my Savior’s love to me,
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow,
but such disdain! So few the longed-for Christ would know!
But oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!

Sometimes they strew his way and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day hosannas to their King.
Then “Crucify!” is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.

**They rise and needs will have my dear Lord made away.
A murderer they save, the Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes
that he his foes from death might free.**

**Here might I stay and sing; no story so divine,
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!**

SERMON: Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my loved one a song about my loved one's vineyard.

My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile ridge.

²He dug it up and gathered the stones out of it.

He planted it with the best vines.

He built a tower in the middle of it.

He also cut a winepress into it.

**He expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes,
but it produced only sour grapes.**

**³So now, you residents of Jerusalem and you men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.**

**⁴What more could have been done for my vineyard
that I have not already done for it?**

**When I expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes,
why did it produce sour grapes?**

⁵Now, let me tell you what I will do to my vineyard.

I will take away its hedge, and it will become a pasture.

I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a wasteland.

It will not be pruned or hoed.

So briars and thorns will shoot up.

I will also command the clouds not to pour rain on it.

**⁷Yes, the vineyard of the LORD of Armies is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah are the planting that was pleasing to him.**

He expected justice, but instead there was oppression.

He expected righteousness, but there was an outcry.

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: # 591 “O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace”

**♪ O Holy Spirit, grant us grace that we our Lord and Savior
in faith and fervent love embrace and truly serve him ever,
so that when death is near at hand
we at his cross may firmly stand
and there find our salvation.**

**Help us that we your saving Word
in faithful hearts may treasure;
let e'er that bread of life afford new grace in richest measure.
Make us to die to ev'ry sin; each day create us new within
that fruits of faith may flourish.**

**Then when our earthly race is run,
death's bitter hour impending,
may your good work in us begun continue till life's ending,
until we gladly may commend
our souls into our Savior's hand
to rest in peace eternal.**

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: # 890 "Jerusalem the Golden"

**♪ Jerusalem the golden, with milk and honey blest—
the sight of it refreshes the weary and oppressed.
I know not, oh, I know not what joys await us there,
what radiancy of glory, what bliss beyond compare.**

**They stand, those halls of Zion, all jubilant with song
and bright with many an angel and all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever in them; the daylight is serene;
the pastures of the blessed are ever rich and green.**

**There is the throne of David, and there, from care released,
the shout of them that triumph, the song of them that feast.
And they who with their leader have conquered in the fight
forever and forever are clad in robes of white.**

**O sweet and blessed country, the home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country that eager hearts expect!
In mercy, Jesus, bring us to that dear land of rest;
you are with God the Father and Spirit ever blest.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by the Evers, in celebration of Sarah'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

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.

Saturday **LWMS Rally — here!**

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

AREA REFORMATION SERVICE, October 29th, 4:00 p.m.
 St. Paul's First, 5244 Tujunga Ave., North Hollywood.

