



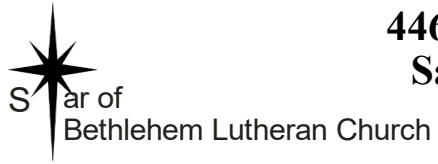
**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

“MANY ARE INVITED,
BUT FEW ARE
CHOSEN.”

Matthew 22:14



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, October 15, 2023 10:00 a.m.

Twentieth Sunday after PENTECOST



Theme of the day: The Lord has prepared a festive banquet and has offered it free of charge to all people. Our God has gone to great lengths to bring lasting joy into our lives. He spared no expense in preparing the feast of our salvation, not even the life of his one and only Son. How we live in this world shows our appreciation for that.

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: # 902 “Spread Abroad, O Mighty Word”

♪ **Spread abroad, O mighty Word,
telling of a gracious Lord
whose all-pow’rful gospel call
fills his heav’nly banquet hall.**

**Tell how God the Father’s will
made the world, upholds it still,
how his only Son he gave
all from sin and death to save.**

**Tell of our Redeemer’s love,
who forever does remove
by his holy sacrifice
all the guilt that on us lies.**

**Tell of God the Spirit giv’n
now to guide us on to heav’n,
strong and holy, just and true,
working both to will and do.**

**Spread abroad! Ripe fields of grain
all throughout the world remain,
but the reapers still are few;
great the work they have to do.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Lord of harvest, great and kind,
rouse to action heart and mind;
let the gath’ring nations all
see your light and heed your call.**

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, you invite us to trust in you for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of your judgment but by the greatness of your mercy; 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: Isaiah 25:6-9

**⁶On this mountain
the LORD of Armies will prepare for all peoples
 a banquet of rich food, a banquet of aged wines,
 with the best cuts of meat, and with the finest wines.**

**⁷On this mountain
he will destroy the shroud that covers all peoples,
the burial cloth stretched over all nations.**

**⁸He has swallowed up death forever!
The LORD God will wipe away the tears from every face.
He will take away the shame of his people throughout the earth.
For the LORD has spoken.**

**⁹On that day it will be said,
“Look, here is our God!
We waited for him, and he saved us!
This is the LORD!
We waited for him.
Let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation!”**

PSALM of the Day: Psalm 84

Refrain



Psalm tone



How lovely is your dwelling place,*
O LORD Almighty!

My soul yearns, even faints,*
for the courts of the LORD.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house;*
they are ever praising you.

Refrain

Better is one day in your courts*
than a thousand elsewhere;

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God*
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

O LORD Almighty,*
blessed are they who trust in you.

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. On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples. Alleluia. (*Isaiah 25:6*)

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 22:1-14

Jesus spoke to them again in parables. He said, ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent out his servants to summon those who were invited to the wedding banquet, but they did not want to come.

⁴“Then he sent out other servants and said, ‘Tell those who are invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and my fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet!’

⁵“But those who were invited paid no attention and went off, one to his own farm, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized the king’s servants, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷As a result, the king was very angry. He sent his army and killed those murderers and burned their town.

⁸“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. ⁹So go to the main crossroads and invite as many as you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those servants went out to the roads and gathered together everyone they found, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹²He said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wearing wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless. ¹³Then the king told the servants, ‘Tie him hand and foot and throw him into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

HYMN: # 868 “By Faith”

♪ **By faith we see the hand of God
in the light of creation's grand design,
in the lives of those who prove his faithfulness,
who walk by faith and not by sight.**

**By faith our fathers roamed the earth
with the pow'r of his promise in their hearts,
of a holy city built by God's own hand,
a place where peace and justice reign.
We will stand as children of the promise;
we will fix our eyes on him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.**

**By faith the prophets saw a day
when the longed-for Messiah would appear
with the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death
and rise triumphant from the grave.**

**By faith the church was called to go
in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost
to deliver captives and to preach good news
in ev'ry corner of the earth
We will stand as children of the promise;
we will fix our eyes on him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.**

**By faith this mountain shall be moved
and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail,
for we know in Christ all things are possible
for all who call upon his name.
We will stand as children of the promise;
we will fix our eyes on him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.**

SERMON: Romans 1:16,17

**For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of
God for salvation to everyone who believes—to the Jew first, and
also to the Greek.**

**For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed by faith,
for faith, just as it is written, "The righteous will live by faith."**

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.

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.**

HYMN: # 573 “Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness”

♪ **Jesus, your blood and righteousness
my beauty are, my glorious dress;
mid flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
with joy shall I lift up my head.**

**Bold shall I stand in that great day;
who can a word against me say?
Fully absolved through these I am
from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.**

**Lord, I believe your precious blood,
which at the very throne of God
pleads for the captives’ liberty,
was also shed in love for me.**

**Lord, I believe were sinners more
than sands upon the ocean shore,
you have for all a ransom paid,
for all a full atonement made.**

**When from the dust of death I rise
to claim my mansion in the skies,
this then shall be my only plea:
Jesus has lived and died for me.**

**Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!
Your boundless mercy has for me,
for me and all your hands have made,
an everlasting ransom paid.**

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: # 884 “Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See”

 **Lord, when your glory I shall see
and taste your kingdom’s pleasure,
your blood my royal robe shall be,
my joy beyond all measure!
When I appear before your throne,
your righteousness shall be my crown;
with these I need not hide me.
And there, in garments richly wrought,
as your own bride I shall be brought
to stand in joy beside you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by the Evers, in celebration of Shayleen'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, Jerry Yonke, and Sandy Murphy.

THIS WEEK

Monday-Wednesday: District Pastors' Conference, Citrus Heights

Thursday Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.

ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Sunday Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.

Worship, 10:00 a.m.

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

Christian Questions

prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament

- 1. Do you believe that you are a sinner?** Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.
- 2. How do you know this?**
From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.
- 3. Are you sorry for your sins?**
Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.
- 4. What have you deserved from God because of your sins?**
His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.
See Romans 6:21, 23.
- 5. Do you hope to be saved?** Yes, that is my hope.
- 6. In whom then do you trust?** In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.
- 7. Who is Christ?** The Son of God, true God and man.
- 8. How many Gods are there?**
Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 9. What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?**
He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.
- 10. Did the Father also die for you?**
He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.
- 11. How do you know this?**
From the holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.
- 12. What are the words of institution?**
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."
- 13. Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?** Yes, I believe it.
- 14. What convinces you to believe this?**
The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.

15. What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?

We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

16. Why should we remember and proclaim His death?

First, so that we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious.

Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.

17. What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?

His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2; and Ephesians 5.

18. Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?

That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

19. What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?

First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

20. But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?

To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7.

Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and in 1 John 2 and 5.

Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.

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