



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

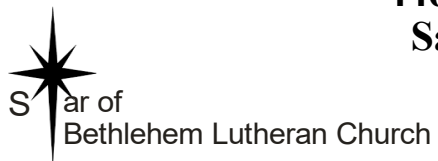
# GIVE BACK TO CAESAR

*what is Caesar's,  
AND TO GOD  
what is God's."*

Matthew 22:21b



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, October 22nd, 2023 10:00 a.m.*

### The Twenty-first Sunday after PENTECOST

**Theme of the day:** The Christian's relationship to government is guided by our understanding that we are citizens of two kingdoms: the kingdom of grace, ruled by gospel, and the kingdom of power, ruled by the law. We support our government because it was instituted by God, so he commands us to obey whether it is Babylon (Old Testament lesson), Rome (second reading), or Washington, D.C.

## 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: # 619 “Praise the Almighty”**

♪ **Praise the Almighty; my soul, adore him!  
Yes, I will laud him until death.  
With songs and anthems I’ll come before him  
as long as he allows me breath.  
From him my life and all things came;  
bless, O my soul, his holy name. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Penitent sinners, for mercy crying,  
pardon and peace from him obtain;  
ever the wants of the poor supplying,  
their faithful God he will remain.  
He helps his children in distress,  
the widows and the fatherless. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Trust not in princes, they are but mortal;  
earthborn they are and soon decay.  
Vain are their counsels at life’s last portal  
when the dark grave will claim its prey.  
Since, then, no one can help afford,  
trust only Christ, our God and Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**Praise, all you people, the name so holy  
of him who does such wondrous things!  
All that has being, to praise him solely,  
with happy heart its amen sings!  
Children of God, with angel host  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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 our God, so govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world so that your church may worship you in peace and joy; 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: Daniel 1:3-21**

<sup>3</sup>The king told Ashpenaz, the chief of his court officials, to bring some young Israelite men from the royal family or from the nobility. <sup>4</sup>He was to choose young men who had no blemish, who were good looking, who had insight into all kinds of wisdom, who possessed knowledge, understanding, and learning, and who were capable of serving in the king's palace, in order to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. <sup>5</sup>The king assigned them daily rations from the special royal food and from the king's own wine. He ordered that they should be trained for three years. At the end of training they were to serve the king. <sup>6</sup>In this group of young men were the Judeans Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. <sup>7</sup>The chief of the officials gave them new names. He gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar, Hananiah the name Shadrak, Mishael the name Meshak, and Azariah the name Abednego.

<sup>8</sup>Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the special food of the king or with the wine that he drank. So he sought permission from the chief official, so that he would not have to defile himself. <sup>9</sup>God made the chief of the officials favorable and sympathetic toward Daniel. <sup>10</sup>Then the chief of the officials said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink. Why should he see your faces looking less healthy than those of the other young men who are your age? You put my life at risk before the king."

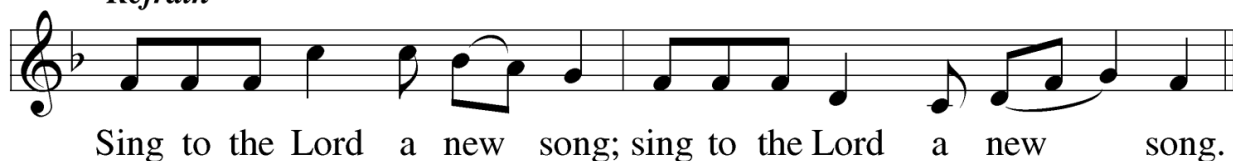
<sup>11</sup>Daniel said to the superintendent whom the chief of the officials had placed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, <sup>12</sup>"Please test your servants for ten days. Tell them to give us only vegetables, and we will eat them and drink water. <sup>13</sup>Observe our appearance and the appearance of the young men who eat the special royal food. Then deal with your servants based on what you see." <sup>14</sup>So he listened to what they said about this and tested them for ten days.

<sup>15</sup>At the end of ten days, their appearance was noticeably better than that of the others. They were healthier than any of the young men who had been eating the special royal food. <sup>16</sup>So the superintendent permanently took away the special royal food and the wine they were to drink and gave them only vegetables. <sup>17</sup>As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and insight into all kinds of literature, as well as wisdom. In addition, Daniel also understood every kind of vision and dream.

<sup>18</sup>At the end of the time which the king had set for them to be brought to him, the chief of the officials brought them before Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>19</sup>The king spoke with them, and none of the others were found to be comparable to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they served the king. <sup>20</sup>In every matter concerning wisdom and understanding that the king sought from them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and spell casters in his entire kingdom. <sup>21</sup>So Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

**PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 96**

*Refrain*



*Psalm tone*



Sing to the LORD, praise his name;\*  
proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations,\*  
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;\*  
tremble before him, all the earth.

*Refrain*

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;\*  
let the sea resound, and all that is in it;

let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.\*  
Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;

**for he comes to judge the world in righteousness\*  
and the peoples in his truth.**

**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. In Christ you have been brought to fullness. Christ is the head over every ruler and authority. Alleluia. (*Colossians 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 22:15-22**

**<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went out and plotted together how to trap him in his words. <sup>16</sup>They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are truthful and teach the way of God in accord with the truth. You are not concerned about gaining anyone’s approval because you are not swayed by appearances. <sup>17</sup>So tell us, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”**

**<sup>18</sup>But Jesus knew their evil purpose and said, “Why are you testing me, hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax.”**

**They brought him a denarius.**

**<sup>20</sup>He asked them, “Whose image and inscription is this?”**

**<sup>21</sup>“Caesar’s,” they replied to him.**

**Then he said to them, “Therefore give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”**

**<sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed. Then they left him and went away.**

**HYMN: # 775 “Before You, Lord We Bow”**

♪ Before you, Lord we bow, our God who reigns above  
and rules the world below in boundless pow’r and love.  
Our thanks we bring in joy and praise,  
our hearts we raise to you, our King!

The nation you have blessed may well your love declare,  
from foes and fears at rest, protected by your care.  
For this bright day for this fair land  
— gifts of your hand — our thanks we pay.

May ev’ry mountain height, each vale and forest green,  
shine in your Word’s pure light and its rich fruits be seen!  
May ev’ry tongue be tuned to praise  
and join to raise a grateful song!

Earth, hear your maker’s voice, your great Redeemer own;  
believe, obey, rejoice, and worship him alone.  
Cast down your pride, your sin deplore  
and bow before the Crucified!

And when in pow’r he comes, oh, may our native land  
from all its rending tombs send forth a glorious band,  
a countless throng, with joy to sing  
to heav’n’s high King, salvation’s song!

**SERMON: Romans 13:1-7**

Everyone must submit to the governing authorities. For no authority exists except by God, and the authorities that do exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup>Therefore the one who rebels against the authority is opposing God’s institution, and those who oppose will bring judgment on themselves.

<sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to evil. Would you like to have no fear of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will receive praise from him, <sup>4</sup>because he is God’s servant for your benefit. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because he does not carry the sword without reason. He is God’s servant, a punisher to bring wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore it is necessary to submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of conscience.



**<sup>6</sup>For this reason you also pay taxes, because the authorities are God's ministers, who are employed to do this very thing. <sup>7</sup>Pay what you owe to all of them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, and honor to whom honor is owed.**

## **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: # 767 "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"**

**♪ Lord of glory, you have bought us  
with your lifeblood as the price,  
never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice;  
and with that have freely given blessings countless as the sand  
to th' unthankful and the evil with your own unsparing hand.**

**Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you  
gladly, freely, of your own.**

**With the sunshine of your goodness**

**melt our thankless hearts of stone**

**till our cold and selfish natures,**

**warmed by you, at length believe**

**that more happy and more blessed 'tis to give than to receive.**

**Wondrous honor you have given to our humblest charity  
in your own mysterious sentence,  
“You have done it all for me.”  
Can it be, O gracious Master, that you need what we can do,  
saying by your poor and needy, “Give as I have giv’n to you”?**

**Lord of glory, you have bought us  
with your lifeblood as the price,  
never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice.  
Give us faith to trust you boldly,  
hope, to stay our souls on you;  
but, oh, best of all your graces, with your love our love renew.**

## **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: # 774 “God Bless Our Native Land”**

**♪ God bless our native land;  
firm may she ever stand  
thro’ storm and night!  
When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave,  
do thou our country save by thy great might.**

**For her our prayers shall rise  
to God above the skies;  
on him we wait.  
Thou who art ever nigh, guarding with watchful eye,  
to thee aloud we cry: God save the state!**

## **WELS CONNECTION**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God by

**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, Marlene 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. ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Bible Class &amp; Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m. Joint Reformation service, North Hollywood</b>

**LA Circuit of the AZCA District of the WELS**

**celebrates a**

**Joint Reformation Service**



**St Paul's First Lutheran Church  
5244 Tujunga Ave  
North Hollywood, CA 91601**

**Sunday, October 29 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Speaker: Pastor Kermit Habben  
(Long-time Missionary in Japan)**

**Special Music provided by  
Adult Choir & Children's Choir**

**Fellowship Meal to Follow**

[www.starlutheran.org](http://www.starlutheran.org)