



NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE

I am sending you out like
sheep **AMONG WOLVES.**"

Matthew 10:16



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PUBLISHING HOUSE



Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, October 29, 2023 10:00 a.m.

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Theme of the day: Lord, keep us faithful to your Word! The Festival of the Lutheran Reformation of the Church emphasizes the true Church's unfailing reliance on the Word of God and unflinching testimony to it in the face of persecution. Jesus promised to pour out his Spirit on the Church that we might be God's mouthpiece even before kings. Today the Church prays that the Lord give us the strength to be faithful and the peace of knowing our lives are secure in his hands.

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.

WE ENTER THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

OPENING HYMN: “O Lord, Look Down from Heaven, Behold”

♪ **O Lord, look down from heav’n, behold
And let Thy pity waken;
How few are we within Thy fold,
Thy saints by men forsaken!
True faith seems quenched on ev’ry hand,
Men suffer not Thy Word to stand;
Dark times have us o’ertaken.**

**With fraud which they themselves invent
Thy truth they have confounded;
Their hearts are not with one consent
On Thy pure doctrine grounded.
While they parade with outward show,
They lead the people to and fro,
In error’s maze astounded.**

**As silver tried by fire is pure
From all adulteration,
So thro’ God’s Word shall men endure
Each trial and temptation.
Its light beams brighter thro’ the cross,
And, purified from human dross,
It shines through every nation.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Defend Thy truth, O God, and stay
This evil generation;
And from the error of its way
Keep Thine own congregation.
The wicked everywhere abound
And would Thy little flock confound;
But Thou are our Salvation.**

M: It was in Eden that Satan destroyed the relationship which existed between God and man, the crown of God's creation. It was in Eden that this tragic cry first arose from the human heart:

C: Lord, have mercy on us. Show us your face, O Lord. Remove us from Satan's power.

M: When the time was right, God acted in his great love. He sent his one and only Son into the world to do for his creatures what they could not do for themselves. Jesus Christ lived and died and rose again to renew the image we had lost in Eden. And the Holy Spirit founded the Church to carry that message of restoration and renewal into all the world.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. We shall not die but live and declare the praises of God.

M: Satan was not finished trying to destroy mankind. He challenged the Church's faith and mission with his evil influence. God preserved his Church, often quietly, sometimes with only a whisper. But even in the depths of darkness, the light of grace flickered. In the fourth century, when Satan attacked the deity of Christ, the Church confessed:

C: 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.

M: In the fifth century, when the doctrine of the Trinity was attacked, the Church confessed:

C: Now this is the true Christian faith: We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being. For each person — the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit — is distinct, but the deity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory and co-eternal in majesty.

M: Through the centuries, the battle continued. Often Satan seemed to be the victor. The cry of God's people continued:

C: Lord, have mercy on us. Show us your face, O Lord. Remove us from Satan's power.

M: When the time was right, God acted in love once again. He raised up a man with weaknesses and failures to be his servant. God used that man to be a messenger of the everlasting Gospel. That man was Martin Luther. We do not praise Luther, but we praise God for

choosing Martin Luther to be his instrument to restore to the Church the good news about Jesus Christ as our Savior.

C: Lord Jesus, because you were crushed for our iniquities and sins, we are declared righteous and holy.

M: For this forgiveness, grace and peace — let us praise the Lord!

♪ **Song: All Glory Be to God Alone** (CW, #936:1,2,5)

**All glory be to God alone,
forevermore the highest One,
who did our sinful race befriend
and grace and peace to us extend.
Among mankind may his good will
all hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.**

**We praise you, God, and you we bless;
we worship you in humbleness.
From day to day we glorify
the everlasting God on high.
Of your great glory do we sing,
and to your throne our thanks we bring.**

**You only are the Holy One;
o'er all things you are Lord alone.
O Jesus Christ, we glorify
you and the Spirit, Lord most high;
with him you evermore shall be
one in the Father's majesty.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

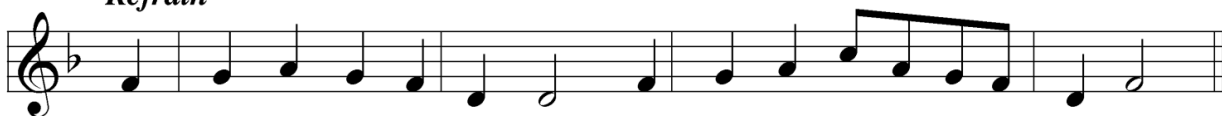
M: Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 46

Refrain



The might-y Lord is with us; the God of Ja-cob is our for-tress.

Psalm tone



God is our refuge and strength,*
an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way*
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam*
and the mountains quake with their surging.

Refrain

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,*
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall;*
God will help her at break of day.

“Be still, and know that I am God;*
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the
earth.”

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

FIRST LESSON: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says is addressed to those who are under the law, so that every mouth will be silenced and the whole world will be subject to God's judgment. ²⁰For this reason, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by works of the law, for through the law we become aware of sin.

²¹But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. The Law and the Prophets testify to it. ²²This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and over all who believe.

In fact, there is no difference, ²³because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ²⁴and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God publicly displayed as the atonement seat through faith in his blood. God did this to demonstrate his justice, since, in his divine restraint, he had left the sins that were committed earlier unpunished. ²⁶He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so that he would be both just and the one who justifies the person who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷What happens to boasting then? It has been eliminated. By what principle—by the principle of works? No, but by the principle of faith. ²⁸For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law.

HYMN: # 864 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

♪ A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon;
he helps us free from ev'ry need that has us now o'ertaken.
The ancient evil foe now means to work us woe;
deep guile and awful might are his dread arms in fight;
on earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done;
soon were our loss effected.
but for us fights the valiant one whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be? Christ Jesus, it is he,
the Lord of hosts his name, from age to age the same,
he holds the field forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Alleluia! Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted on the earth. Alleluia! (Psalm 46:10)

C: “Do not be afraid, little flock, because your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.” Alleluia! (*Luke 12:32*)

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 10:16-23

¹⁶“Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷Be on guard against people. They will hand you over to councils, and they will whip you in their synagogues. ¹⁸You will be brought into the presence of governors and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹Whenever they hand you over, do not be worried about how you will respond or what you will say, because what you say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰In fact you will not be the ones speaking, but the Spirit of your Father will be speaking through you.

²¹“Brother will hand over his brother to death, and a father will do the same with his child. Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. ²²You will be hated by all people because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. ²³And when they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. Amen I tell you: You will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

HYMN: # 863:3,4 “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

♪ Though devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us,
we tremble not, we fear no ill; they shall not overpower us.
This world’s prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
he can harm us none. He’s judged; the deed is done;
one little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain nor any thanks have for it;
he’s by our side upon the plain with his good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,
though all may be gone, our victory is won;
the kingdom’s ours forever!

MESSAGE OF THE DAY: Daniel 6:10-12, 16-23

¹⁰Now, when Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went to his house. It had windows on its upper story that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times each day he would get on his knees and pray and offer praise before his God. He continued to do that, just as he had been doing before this. ¹¹Then these men came as a group and found Daniel praying and seeking favor from his God.

¹²They then went and asked the king about the decree. “Your Majesty, did you not sign a decree that anyone who prays to any god or person for thirty days except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the den of lions?”

The king answered, “Indeed I did. The order is established as a law of the Medes and the Persians that cannot be revoked.”

¹⁶Then the king gave the order, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you.” ¹⁷A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the pit. The king sealed it with his signet ring and the signet rings of his nobles so that nothing could be changed with regard to Daniel’s situation. ¹⁸Then the king went to his palace. He spent the night without food, and no entertainment was brought before him. But he could not sleep.

¹⁹At dawn the king arose as soon as it was light and hurried to the lions’ den. ²⁰As he came near the pit, he cried out in a fearful voice. The king said to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, was your God, whom you serve continually, able to rescue you from the lions?”

²¹Then Daniel spoke with the king. “Your Majesty, may you live forever! ²²My God sent his angel and shut the mouth of the lions. They have not hurt me because he found me innocent in his presence. Also before you, Your Majesty, I have committed no crime.”

²³Then the king was very glad and said that Daniel should be brought up from the pit. So Daniel was brought up from the pit, and he was unharmed because he trusted in his God.

CONFESSION of FAITH (Formula of Concord, Article III)

It is unanimously confessed in our churches, in accordance with God’s Word, that we poor sinners are justified before God and saved alone through faith in Christ.

We unanimously believe, teach, and confess that Christ is our Righteousness neither according to his divine nature alone nor according to his human nature alone. But it is the entire Christ who is our Righteousness according to both natures.

In his obedience alone, which as God and man he offered to the Father even to his death, he merited for us the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

We believe, teach, and confess that our righteousness before God is this: God forgives our sins out of pure grace, without any work, merit, or worthiness of ours preceding, present, or following. He presents and credits to us the righteousness of Christ's obedience. Because of this righteousness, we are received into grace by God and regarded as righteous.

We believe, teach, and confess that faith alone is the means and instrument through which we lay hold of Christ. So in Christ we lay hold of that righteousness that benefits us before God, for whose sake this faith is credited to us for righteousness.

We believe, teach, and confess that this faith is not a bare knowledge of Christ's history, but it is God's gift. By this gift we come to the right knowledge of Christ as our Redeemer in the Word of the Gospel. And we trust in him that for the sake of his obedience alone we have – by grace – the forgiveness of sins and are regarded as holy and righteous before God the Father and are eternally saved.

This article about justification by faith is the chief article in all Christian doctrine. Without this teaching no poor conscience can have any firm consolation or truly know the riches of Christ's grace. Amen.

HYMN: # 821 “On Eagle's Wings”

**♪ You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord: “My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!”**

**And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

**The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear;
under his wings your refuge,
his faithfulness your shield.**

**And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

**For to his angels he's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

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.

CLOSING BLESSING

**M: 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.

CLOSING HYMN: # 640 "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"

**♪ God's Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way, in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure, we keep its teachings pure
throughout all generations.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service were given to the glory of God by the Lyons in observance of the Festival of the Reformation.

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.

TIME CHANGE: Don't forget to fall back for next Sunday, November 5th.

THIS WEEK

Today	Joint Reformation service, North Hollywood
Tuesday	ESL (English as a Second Language), 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.
	Elders
	ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Sunday	Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

