



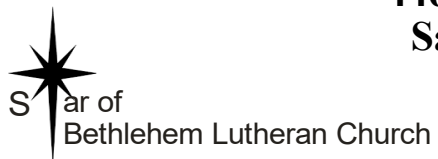
**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

“KEEP **watch**,  
BECAUSE YOU  
DO NOT KNOW  
THE **day** OR  
THE **hour**.”

MATTHEW 25:13



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, November 12, 2023 10:00 a.m.*

### The Twenty-fourth Sunday after PENTECOST

**Theme of the day:** As we wait for Christ's return, it can be easy to get distracted, to lose spiritual vigilance. God forbid that Christ should return and find us spiritually asleep. The time between Christ's first and second coming is a time for watchfulness. "Lord, keep us ever watchful for the return of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven."

## 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: # 870 “O Church, Arise”**

♪ **O Church Arise and put your armor on;  
hear the call of Christ our Captain.  
For now the weak can say that they are strong  
in the strength that God has given.  
With shield of faith and belt of truth  
we'll stand against the devil's lies;  
an army bold whose battle cry is love,  
reaching out to those in darkness.**

**Our call to war — to love the captive soul,  
but to rage against the captor;  
and with the sword that makes the wounded whole  
we will fight with faith and valor.  
When faced with trials on every side,  
we know the outcome is secure,  
and Christ will have the prize for which he died —  
an inheritance of nations.**

**Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,  
as the Son of God is stricken;  
then see his foes lie crushed beneath his feet,  
for the Conqueror has risen!  
And as the stone is rolled away,  
and Christ emerges from the grave,  
this vict'ry march continues till the day  
ev'ry eye and heart shall see him.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**So Spirit come, put strength in every stride,  
give grace for ev'ry hurdle,  
that we may run with faith to win the prize  
of a servant good and faithful.  
As saints of old still line the way,  
retelling triumphs of His grace,  
we hear their calls and hunger for the day  
when with Christ we stand in glory.**

**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 and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; 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 52:1-6**

**Wake, awake! Clothe yourself with strength, O Zion.  
Put on your beautiful garments, Jerusalem, you holy city,  
for never again will the uncircumcised  
and the unclean enter you.**

**<sup>2</sup>Shake off the dust.**

**Get up and take your seat, Jerusalem.**

**Loosen the chains from your neck,  
you captive daughter of Zion.**

**<sup>3</sup>Yes, this is what the LORD says.**

**You were sold for nothing,  
and you will be redeemed without money.**

**<sup>4</sup>Yes, this is what the LORD God says.**

**In the beginning, my people went down to Egypt to stay there  
for a while.**

**Later Assyria oppressed them without cause.**

**<sup>5</sup>Now what do I have here? declares the LORD.**

**Indeed, my people have been taken away for nothing.**

**Their rulers howl with mockery, declares the LORD.**


**My name is continually despised all day.**

**<sup>6</sup>Therefore my people will know my name.**

**So on that day they will know that I am the one—  
the one who is saying, “Here I am!”**

**Psalm of the Day: Psalm 90**

*Refrain*



In ev - 'ry age, O Lord, you have been our ref - uge.

*Psalm tone*



Lord, you have been our dwelling place\*  
throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born  
or you brought forth the earth and the world,\*  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

For a thousand years in your sight are like a day  
that has just gone by,\*  
or like a watch in the night.

*Refrain*

You have set our iniquities before you,\*  
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

You turn mortals back to dust.\*  
You sweep them away in the sleep of death.

The length of our days is seventy years—  
or eighty, if we have the strength;\*  
yet their span is but trouble and sorrow.

Teach us to number our days aright,\*  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

*Refrain*

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,\*  
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

**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. So be alert, because you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Alleluia. (*Matthew 24:42*)

**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: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Concerning the times and dates, brothers, there is no need to write to you, <sup>2</sup>for you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When people are saying, “Peace and security,” destruction will suddenly come on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will certainly not escape.

<sup>4</sup>But you, brothers, are not in the dark so that this day takes you by surprise like a thief, <sup>5</sup>for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep like everyone else, but rather let us remain alert and sober.

<sup>7</sup>To be sure, those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. <sup>9</sup>You see, God did not appoint us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup>He died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are also doing.

**HYMN: # 493 “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”**

**♪ Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near;  
go forth, as he approaches, with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand.**

**You saints, who here in patience  
your cross and suff’rings bore,  
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory the Lamb you shall behold,  
in triumph lay before him your shining crowns of gold.**

**Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth’s redemption that sets your people free.**

**SERMON: Matthew 25:1-13**

**“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took oil in their containers with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise answered, ‘No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>But while they were away buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later, the other virgins also came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, let us in.’ <sup>12</sup>But he answered, ‘Amen I tell you: I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.**



## **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: # 486 "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"**

**♪ "Wake, awake, for night is flying,"  
the watchmen on the heights are crying;  
"awake, Jerusalem, arise!"**

**Midnight hears the welcome voices**

**and at the thrilling cry rejoices:**

**"Oh, where are all you virgins wise?**

**The Bridegroom comes, awake!**

**Your lamps with gladness take! Alleluia!**

**With bridal care yourselves prepare**

**to meet the Bridegroom, who is near."**

**Zion hears the watchmen singing,**

**and all her heart with joy is springing;**

**she wakes, she rises from her gloom.**

**For her Lord comes down all-glorious,**

**the strong in grace, in truth victorious;**

**her star is ris'n, her light is come.**

**Now come, O Blessed One, Christ Jesus, God's own Son.**

**Hail! Hosanna! We enter all the marriage hall**

**to eat the Supper at your call.**

**Now let all the heav'ns adore you,  
let saints and angels sing before you  
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.  
Of one pearl each shining portal,  
where, dwelling with the choir immortal,  
we gather round your radiant throne.  
No vision ever brought, no ear has ever caught  
such great glory; therefore will we in victory  
sing hymns of praise eternally.**

## **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: # 518 "Christ Be My Leader"**

**♪ Christ be my leader by night as by day;  
safe through the darkness, for he is the way.  
Gladly I follow, my future his care,  
darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.**

**Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,  
drifting or doubting, for he is the truth.  
Grant me to trust him; though shifting as sand,  
doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.**

**Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;  
death cannot hold me, for he is the life.  
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain  
can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God by Mike Gowin, in celebration of his birthday and sobriety.

**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, Jerry Yonke, and James Gowin.

## **THIS WEEK**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Circuit Meeting</b> <b>ESL (English as a Second Language), 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.</b> <b>ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Bible Class &amp; Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.</b>

