



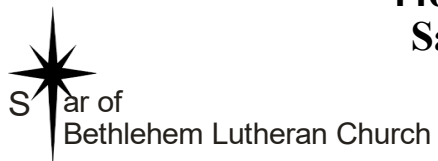
**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

**“He will separate the people one  
from another as a shepherd  
separates the sheep  
from the goats.”**

Matthew 25:32



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, November 26th, 2023 10:00 a.m.*

### The Last Sunday of the Church Year

#### Theme of the day:

**Lo! He comes with clouds descending,  
once for ev'ry sinner slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ reveals his endless reign.**

## 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: # 491 “Come, You Thankful People, Come”**

♪ **Come, you thankful people, come;  
raise the song of harvest home.  
All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.  
God, our maker, shall provide for our wants to be supplied.  
Come to God’s own temple, come;  
raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the world is God’s own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;  
wheat and weeds together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.  
First the blade and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear.  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**For the Lord our God shall come  
and shall take his harvest home,  
from his field shall in that day all offenses purge away,  
give his angels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast,  
but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**Even so, Lord, quickly come to your final harvest home;  
gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,  
there, forever purified, in your garner to abide.  
Come with all your angels, come;  
raise the glorious harvest home.**

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: Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of his return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; 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.*

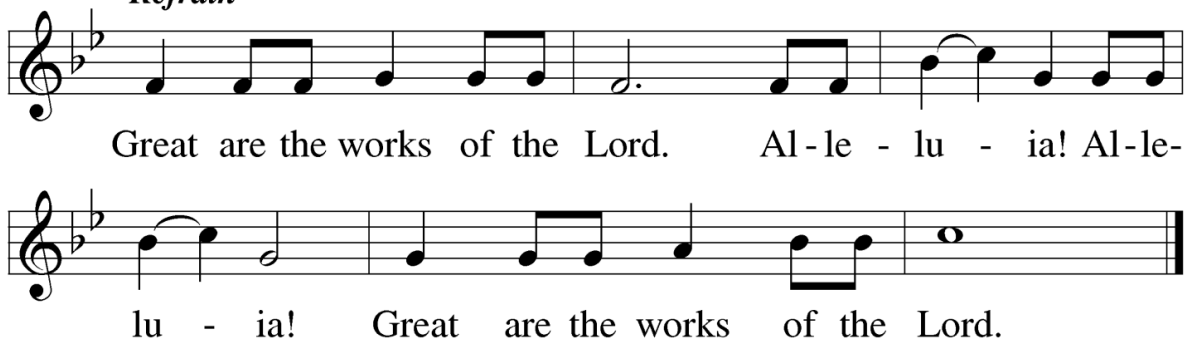
## FIRST LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you do not grieve in the same way as the others, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>Indeed, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then in the same way we also believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus.

<sup>15</sup>In fact, we tell you this by the word of the Lord: We who are alive and left until the coming of the Lord will certainly not go on ahead of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup>Therefore, encourage one another with these words.

## 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. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,  
the Beginning and the End. Alleluia. (*Revelation 22:13*)**

**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 25:31-46**

**<sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels  
with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be  
gathered in his presence, and he will separate them one from an-  
other, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>He will  
put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. <sup>34</sup>Then the King  
will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my  
Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation**

of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. <sup>36</sup>I was lacking clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.'

<sup>37</sup>"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? <sup>38</sup>When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or lacking clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

<sup>40</sup>"The King will answer them, 'Amen I tell you: Just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.'

<sup>41</sup>"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire, which is prepared for the Devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you did not give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you did not give me anything to drink. <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, lacking clothes and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not take care of me.'

<sup>44</sup>"Then they will also answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or lacking clothes or sick or in prison and did not serve you?'

<sup>45</sup>"At that time he will answer them, 'Amen I tell you: Just as you did not do it for one of the least of these, you did not do it for me.' <sup>46</sup>And they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

## **HYMN: # 487 "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"**

♪ **Lo! He comes with clouds descending,  
once for ev'ry sinner slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ reveals his endless reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in glorious majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
shall their true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshipers.  
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,  
gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, amen, let all adore thee  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,  
claim the kingdom as thine own.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!**

#### **SERMON: Daniel 7:9,10**

**<sup>9</sup>I continued to watch until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days was seated. His clothing was white as snow, and the hair on his head was like pure wool. His throne was flames of fire. Its wheels were blazing fire.**

**<sup>10</sup>A river of fire flowed out from his presence. Thousands upon thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and books were opened.**

#### **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: # 857 “Glorious Things of You Are Spoken”**

♪ **Glorious things of you are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God;  
he, whose word cannot be broken  
formed you for His own abode.  
On the Rock of Ages founded,  
what can shake your sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
you may smile at all your foes.**

**See, the streams of living waters,  
springing from eternal love,  
well supply your sons and daughters  
and all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint while such a river  
ever will their thirst assuage?  
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,  
never fails from age to age.**

**Round each habitation hov'ring,  
see the cloud and fire appear  
for a glory and a cov'ring,  
showing that the Lord is near.  
Thus deriving from their banner  
light by night and shade by day,  
safe they feed upon the manna  
which God gives them on their way.**

**Savior, since of Zion's city  
I thro' grace a member am,  
let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in your name  
Fading are the world's vain pleasures,  
all their boasted pomp and show;  
solid joys and lasting treasures  
none but Zion's children know.**

## 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: # 850 “It Is Well with My Soul”

♪ **When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll—  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.  
It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul).  
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

**Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate  
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul).  
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

**My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought—  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more:  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul).  
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

**And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend;  
even so, it is well with my soul.  
It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul).  
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

## **WELS CONNECTION**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God by the Evers in celebration of Carl & Janetta's 37th anniversary.

**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 Marlene Washburn.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING:** December 3rd, after the service, we will be decorating the sanctuary and fellowship hall. You are all welcome to join us in the fun.

### **THIS WEEK**

**Tuesday** ESL (English as a Second Language), **6:00 p.m.**  
**Thursday** **Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.**  
ESL, **6:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday** **Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.**

### **COMING UP**

**Living Nativity, December 10, 5:00-6:00 p.m.**  
**Las Posadas, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Christmas Eve - Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Christmas Day - Festival Worship, 10:00 a.m.**









