



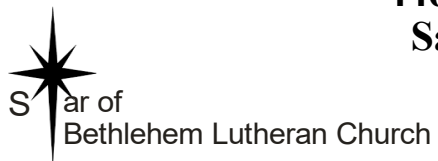
**NORTHWESTERN**  
PUBLISHING HOUSE

“My prayer is not that you take them  
out of the world  
but that you protect them from the  
evil one.”

*John 17:15*



**NORTHWESTERN**  
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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, May 12, 2024*      *10:00 a.m.*

## The Seventh Sunday of EASTER

**Theme of the day:** The season of Easter draws to a close as Jesus prays his “high-priestly prayer.” Now as then, our ascended Savior prays for Spirit-inspired unity between the Father and his church. With much anticipation, we look for the coming of the Holy Spirit, as we confidently live a new life of faith in our ascended Lord.

## 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: # 717 “What Is the World to Me”**

♪ **What is the world to me with all its vaunted pleasure  
when you, and you alone, Lord Jesus, are my treasure!  
You only, dearest Lord, my soul’s delight shall be;  
you are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!**

**The world seeks after wealth and all that money offers,  
yet never is content though gold should fill its coffers.  
I have a higher good, content with it I’ll be;  
my Jesus is my wealth. What is the world to me!**

**The world is like a cloud and like a vapor fleeting,  
a shadow that declines, swift to its end retreating.  
My Jesus shall remain, though all things fade and flee,  
my everlasting rock. What is the world to me!**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**What is the world to me! My Jesus is my treasure,  
my life, my health, my wealth,  
my friend, my love, my pleasure,  
my joy, my crown, my all, my bliss eternally.  
Once more then I declare: What is the world to me!**

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*)

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

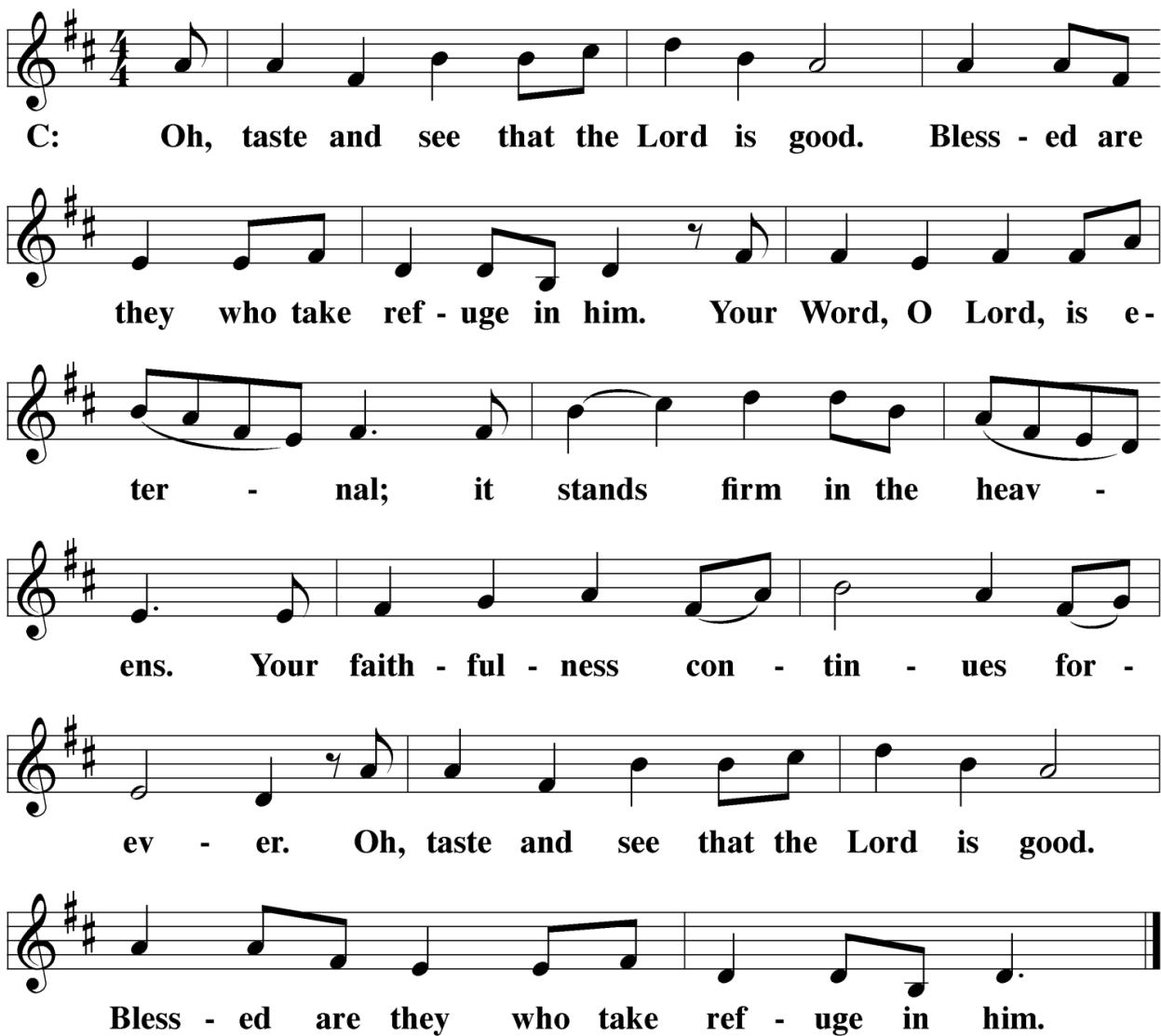
**M**: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love  
and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and  
deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess  
our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**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 eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

M: Almighty God, your Son our Savior was taken up in glory and intercedes for us at your right hand. Through your living and abiding Word, give us hearts to know him and faith to follow where he has gone; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  Amen.

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST LESSON: 1 John 5:1-6**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the God who has given birth also loves one who has been born of him. <sup>2</sup>This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep his commands. <sup>3</sup>In fact, this is love for God: that we keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>because everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is the one who overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. He did not come by the water alone but by the water and by the blood. The Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

**PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 47**

*Refrain*



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

*Psalm tone*



Clap your hands, all you nations;  
shout to God with cries of joy.

How awesome is the LORD Most High,  
the great King over all the earth!

**God reigns over the nations,\*  
God is seated on his holy throne.**

*Refrain*

**God has ascended amid shouts of joy,\*  
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.**

**Sing praises to God, sing praises;\*  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

**For God is the King of all the earth,\*  
sing to him a psalm of praise.**

**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. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia.

“I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.” Alleluia.

*(John 14:18)*

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: John 17:11-19**

<sup>11</sup>Holy Father, protect them by your name, which you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I kept those you gave me safe in your name. I protected them and not one of them was destroyed, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

<sup>13</sup>“But now I am coming to you, and I am saying these things in the world, so that they may be filled with my joy. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word. The world hated them, because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup>I am not asking that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the Evil One. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

<sup>17</sup>“Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you sent me into the world, I also sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>I sanctify myself for them, so they also may be sanctified by the truth.

**HYMN: # 446 “Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense”**

♪ Jesus Christ, my sure defense  
and my Savior, now is living!  
Knowing this, my confidence  
rests upon the hope he’s giving,  
though the night of death be fraught  
still with many an anxious thought.

Jesus, my Redeemer, lives;  
I, too, unto life shall waken.  
Endless joy my Savior gives;  
shall my courage, then, be shaken?  
Shall I fear, or could the head  
rise and leave his members dead?

No, too closely am I bound  
unto him by hope forever;  
faith’s strong hand the rock has found,  
grasped it, and will leave it never.  
Even death now cannot part  
from its Lord the trusting heart.

I am flesh and must return  
unto dust, whence I am taken;  
but by faith I now discern  
that from death I shall awaken  
with my Savior to abide  
in his glory, at his side.

**Glorified, I shall anew  
with this flesh then be enshrouded;  
in this body I shall view  
God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;  
in this flesh I then shall see  
Jesus Christ eternally.**

**SERMON: Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60**

**6 In those days, as the number of disciples was increasing, a complaint arose from the Greek-speaking Jews against the Hebrew-speaking Jews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.**

**<sup>2</sup>So the Twelve called together the whole group of disciples and said, “It is not right for us to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup>Brothers, carefully select from among you seven men with good reputations, who are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will put them in charge of this service. <sup>4</sup>But we will devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word.”**

**<sup>5</sup>This proposal pleased the entire group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas, a proselyte from Antioch.**

**<sup>6</sup>They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.**

**<sup>7</sup>The word of God kept on spreading, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly. Also a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.**

**<sup>8</sup>Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. <sup>9</sup>Some men who were from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia) rose up and disputed with Stephen.**

**<sup>7</sup> <sup>2</sup>Stephen said, “Gentlemen, brothers and fathers, listen!”**

**<sup>51</sup>“You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit! You are doing just what your fathers did. <sup>52</sup>Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who prophesied the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers—<sup>53</sup>you who received the law as transmitted by angels, but did not keep it.”**



<sup>54</sup>When they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup>But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed up into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>He said, “Look, I see heaven opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

<sup>57</sup>But they screamed at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and rushed at him with one purpose in mind. <sup>58</sup>They threw him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” <sup>60</sup>Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” After he said this, he fell asleep.

## **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: # 892:1,7,3 “By All Your Saints Still Striving”**

♪ **By all your saints still striving,  
for all your saints at rest,  
your holy name, O Jesus,  
forevermore be blessed.  
You rose, our King victorious,  
that they might wear the crown  
and ever shine in splendor  
reflected from your throne.**

**All praise, O Lord, for Stephen,  
who, martyred, saw you stand  
to help in time of torment,  
to plead at God's right hand.  
Like you, our suff'ring Savior,  
his enemies he blessed;  
with "Lord, receive my spirit,"  
his faith, in death, confessed.**

**Then let us praise the Father  
and worship God the Son  
and sing to God the Spirit,  
eternal Three in One,  
till all the ransomed number  
who stand before the throne  
ascribe all pow'r and glory  
and praise to God alone.**

## **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: # 839 “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”**

 **Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure:  
cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.**

**Not the labors of my hands  
can fulfill thy law’s demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone;  
thou must save and thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,  
simply to thy cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress,  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;  
wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when mine eyelids close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FLOWERS** for today's service were given to the glory of God by Ryan Moore in celebration of his birthday and in observance of his father'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, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Judy Washburn, Marlene Washburn, Terry's siblings Linda & Carp, Kathryn Pereira, and Merlyn and Helen Cummings .

**“Hi, We’re Your Neighbors at Star”**- Big, fun, promotional fellowship / outreach day at Waller Park, Saturday, Aug. 24th. Start planning for it now.

### THIS WEEK

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Circuit Meeting</b> ESL (English as a Second Language), <b>6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.</b> ESL, <b>6:00-7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Roberta Gowin memorial, 11:00 a.m. (luncheon)</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.</b> <b>Fellowship Meal &amp; Voters’ Meeting</b>