



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

**People can be forgiven all their sins
and every slander they utter,**

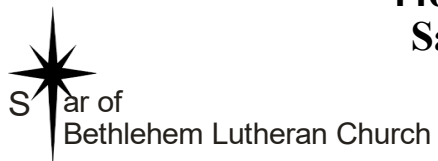
**but whoever blasphemes
against the Holy Spirit**

will never be forgiven . . .

Mark 3:28,29a



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www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, June 9, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday after PENTECOST

Theme of the day: God is serious about his Word in both law and gospel. It is addressed to us both collectively and individually. This Sunday it is well summed up in the pertinent question: Where are you? In the liturgy of confession may we answer honestly. In the absolution and the gospel may we hear God's response. For faith begins and ends with confession and absolution; they are its constants that are never to be taken for granted.

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: # 574 “The Tree of Life”

♪ **The tree of life with ev’ry good
in Eden’s holy orchard stood,
and of its fruit so pure and sweet
God let the man and woman eat.
Yet in this garden also grew
another tree, of which they knew;
its lovely limbs with fruit adorned
against whose eating God had warned.**

**The stillness of that sacred grove
was broken as the serpent strove
with tempting voice Eve to beguile
and Adam too by sin defile.
O day of sadness when the breath
of fear and darkness, doubt and death,
its awful poison first displayed
within the world so newly made.**

**What mercy God showed to our race,
a plan of rescue by His grace,
in sending One from woman’s seed,
the One to fill our greatest need —
for on a tree uplifted high
his only Son for sin would die,
would drink the cup of scorn and dread
to crush the ancient serpent’s head!**

Please stand for last verse:

**Now from that tree of Jesus’ shame
flows life eternal in His name;
for all who trust and will believe,
salvation’s living fruit receive.
And of this fruit so pure and sweet
the Lord invites the world to eat,
to find within this cross of wood
the tree of life with ev’ry good.**

**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 and eternal God, your Son Jesus triumphed over the prince of demons and freed us from bondage to sin. Help us to stand firm against every assault of Satan, and enable us always to do your will; 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: Genesis 3:8-15

⁸They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹The LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

¹⁰The man said, “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.”

¹¹God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³The LORD God said to the woman, “What have you done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the livestock, and more than every wild animal. You shall crawl on your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 130

Refrain



Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;



re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.



**Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;*
O Lord, hear my voice.**

**Let your ears be attentive*
to my cry for mercy.**

**If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,*
O Lord, who could stand?**

**But with you there is forgiveness;*
therefore you are feared.**

Refrain

**I wait for the LORD and in his Word I put my hope.*
My soul waits for the Lord more than
watchmen wait for the morning.**


**O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,*
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.**

**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. This is why the Son of God appeared: to destroy the
works of the devil. Alleluia. (1 John 3:8)**

**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: Mark 3:20-35

²⁰They went into a house. A crowd gathered again so that they were not even able to eat a meal. ²¹When his own people heard this, they went out to take control of him, because they were saying, “He is out of his mind.”

²²The experts in the law who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “He drives out demons by the ruler of demons.”

²³Jesus called them together and spoke to them in parables. “How can Satan drive out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand but is finished. ²⁷On the other hand, no one can enter a strong man’s house to steal his possessions unless he ties up the strong man first. Then he can plunder his house. ²⁸Amen I tell you: Everything will be forgiven people, their sins and whatever blasphemies they may speak. ²⁹But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin.” ³⁰Jesus said this because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

³¹Then his mother and his brothers arrived. While they were standing outside, they sent word to Jesus, calling for him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him. They began to tell him, “Look, your mother and your brothers are outside looking for you.”

³³He replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴He looked at those who sat around him in a circle and he said, “Look, my mother and my brothers! ³⁵For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

HYMN: # 871 “Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You”

♪ Rise! To arms! With prayer employ you,
O Christians, lest the foe destroy you,
for Satan has designed your fall.
Wield God’s Word, a weapon glorious;
against each foe you’ll be victorious;
for God will set you o’er them all.
Fear not the prince of hell, here is Immanuel!
Sing hosanna! The strong ones yield to Christ, our shield,
and we as conqu’rors hold the field.

**Cast afar this world's vain pleasure
and boldly strive for heav'nly treasure.
Be steadfast in the Savior's might.
Trust the Lord, who stands beside you,
for Jesus from all harm will hide you.
By faith you'll conquer in the fight.
Take courage, weary soul! Look forward to the goal!
Joy awaits you. The race, then, run; your battle done,
the crown of glory will be won.**

**Jesus, all your children cherish,
and keep them that they never perish
whom you have purchased with your blood.
Let new life to us be given
that we may look to you in heaven
whenever fearful is our mood.
Your Spirit on us pour that we may love you more,
hearts o'erflowing; and then shall we,
from sin set free, sing praise through all eternity.**

SERMON: Revelation 20:1-6

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven. He had the key to the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ²He seized the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, bound him for a thousand years, ³threw him into the abyss, locked it, and set a seal on it, so that he could no longer deceive the nations until the thousand years come to an end. After this he must be released for a short time.

⁴Then I saw thrones, and those who were sitting on them were given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast and his image, and they did not receive his mark on their forehead and on their hand. They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵(The rest of the dead did not live until the thousand years came to an end.) This is the first resurrection.

⁶Blessed and holy is the one who has a share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them. Instead they will be priests of God and of Christ. And they will reign with him for a thousand years.

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: # 566:1-3,5 "Father, God of Grace, You Knew Us"

**♪ Father, God of grace, you knew us,
chose us, named us as your own,
through eternal ages planning to redeem us in your Son.
Praise the Father, God who loved us
ere creation was begun!**

**We, your creatures, sinned against you,
and our guilt was crimson red.
Son of God, you came incarnate,
crushed the crafty serpent's head,
died our death, now live triumphant:
praise the firstborn from the dead!**

**Counselor, you bring as promised
from the Father and the Son
righteousness fulfilled, accomplished,
free forgiveness, heaven won.
Praise the Spirit! He assures us
our salvation's work is done!**

**Forward lead us; Christ, we follow,
drawn by Word and promise true:
“To all nations preach the gospel;
I am evermore with you.”
Keep us faithful! Then, Lord Jesus,
quickly come; make all things new!**

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: # 863:3 “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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 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.

Good Shepherd Bible Camp: July 7-13, grades 4-10. See Pastor Foley for more information and registration forms. Or check out: goodshepherdbiblecamp.com

THIS WEEK

Arizona-California District Convention, Monday-Wednesday

Tuesday No ESL

**Thursday No Bible Class
ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.**

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