



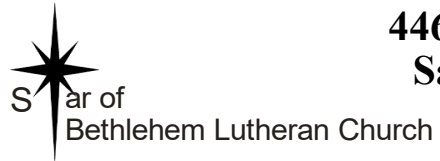
**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

**“THIS IS WHAT THE  
KINGDOM OF GOD  
IS LIKE.”**

MARK 4:26A



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, June 16, 2024 10:00 a.m.*

### Fourth Sunday after PENTECOST

**Theme of the day:** The work of the gospel is invisible, but real. It is hidden, but with results that can be seen — even if the power behind those visible results remains a mystery. That is the truth of the kingdom of God hidden within the heart. Has faith made a difference in life, or is it something apart? Faith that is the result of the living seed of the Word is alive and gives evidence of its life.

## 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: # 644 “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”**

♪ **Almighty God, your Word is cast  
like seed into the ground;  
now let the dew of heav’n descend  
and righteous fruits abound.**

**Let not the foe of Christ and man  
this holy seed remove,  
but give it root in ev’ry heart  
to bring forth fruits of love.**

**Let not the world’s deceitful cares  
the rising plant destroy,  
but let it yield a hundredfold  
the fruits of peace and joy.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**Whene’er the precious seed is sown,  
life-giving grace bestow  
that all whose souls the truth receive  
its saving pow’r may know.**

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**: God invites us to come into his presence to worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C**: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: ♪ Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

**C. ♪ Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

**♪ O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth. Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Father, you crown our life with your love. You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it; you make us pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your on-ly Son, but gave him up for us all.**

**O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.**

**O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word of the Fa-ther, you came to live with us; you made your Fa-ther known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the King of glo-ry; you are the Lord!**

**O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.**

M: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy and bring forth fruits in faith, hope, and love; 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: Ezekiel 17:22-24

<sup>22</sup>This is what the LORD God says. I myself will take part of the tip of the cedar and plant it. From the topmost of its shoots I will pluck off a tender sprig, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. <sup>23</sup>On the high mountain of Israel I will plant it. It will produce branches, bear fruit, and become a magnificent cedar. Flying birds of every kind will live under it. In the shelter of its branches they will nest. <sup>24</sup>Then all the trees in the countryside will know that I, the LORD, bring down the high tree and raise up the low tree, that I make the green tree dry up, and I make the dried-up tree blossom. I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will carry it out.

### PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 92

#### *Refrain*



Lord, let your mer-cy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

#### *Psalm tone*



How great are your works, O LORD,\*  
how profound your thoughts!

The senseless man does not know,\*  
fools do not understand,

that though the wicked spring up like grass\*  
and all evildoers flourish,

they will be forever destroyed.\*  
But you, O LORD, are exalted forever.

*Refrain*

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,\*  
they will flourish in the courts of our God.

They will still bear fruit in old age,\*  
they will stay fresh and green,

proclaiming, “The LORD is upright;\*  
he is my rock, and there is no wickedness in him.”

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. Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior  
Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever. Alleluia.

*(2 Peter 3:18)*

C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**SECOND LESSON: Colossians 1:3-8**

<sup>3</sup>We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup>because we have heard of your faith in

**Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the saints <sup>5</sup>because of the hope that is stored up for you in heaven. You have already heard about this in the word of truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup>that is present with you now. The gospel is bearing fruit and growing in the entire world, just as it also has been doing among you from the day you heard it and came to know the grace of God in truth. <sup>7</sup>You learned this from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf. <sup>8</sup>He is the one who told us about your love in the Spirit.**

**HYMN: # 859 “Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure”**

**♪ Your kingdom, O God, is my glorious treasure,  
my pearl of incomp’rable worth.  
Its value exceeds ev’ry standard of measure,  
surpassing the wealth of the earth.  
Lord, give me your grace and the pow’r of the Spirit  
to value this treasure aright  
that, never allured by the world, I inherit  
your kingdom of glory and light.**

**Your kingdom, O God, is alive with the power  
your Word and your Spirit bestow.  
Like yeast, they affect the whole measure of flour,  
enabling your kingdom to grow.  
Empower me, Lord, as I live your commission,  
though humble my service may be,  
and bring ev’ry planting to perfect fruition,  
a mustard seed grown to a tree.**

**Your kingdom, O God, is a field for the growing  
of seeds that your mercy has sown;  
but still in our midst is the enemy sowing  
the seeds that imperil your own.  
Sustain me, O Lord, till your day of returning  
and harvest me homeward at last,  
to shine in the homeland that quiets all yearning,  
where sorrow and danger are past.**

## **SERMON: Mark 4:26-34**

**<sup>26</sup>He said, “The kingdom of God is like this: A man scatters seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and while he sleeps and rises, night and day, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The ground produces fruit on its own: first the blade, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>When the crop is ready, he swings the sickle without delay, because the harvest has come.”**

**<sup>30</sup>Then he said, “To what should we compare the kingdom of God? Or with what parable may we picture it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which when sown on the ground is one of the smallest of all the seeds planted in the ground. <sup>32</sup>Yet when it is planted, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches so that the birds of the sky can nest under its shade.”**

**<sup>33</sup>With many similar parables he continued to speak the word to them, as much as they were able to hear. <sup>34</sup>He did not speak to them without a parable. But when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.**

## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**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, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**



**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M:** O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

**C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.**

**M:** Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

**C: Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.**

**M:** We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

**C: Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.**

**M:** Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

**C: Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.**

**M:** Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

**C: Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.**

**M:** Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

**C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.**

**M:** Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

**C: Amen.**

### **THE 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.**

Holy Communion, will be celebrated in today's service. The Bible teaches us that Jesus offers us his body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins in the Lord's Supper. The Bible also instructs us that receiving the Lord's Supper together is a public expression of our complete "oneness," or unity of faith.

Because the Lord's Supper is an expression of our unity in faith, we invite to the Lord's Supper only those who have expressed that unity with us through membership in our congregation or one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), or our sister church body, the ELS.

If you are a guest from another Christian church, we kindly ask that you simply refrain from participation in our celebration of the Lord's Supper today. We don't want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of declaring your agreement with our beliefs before you have had a chance to learn more.

## **THE HOLY SACRAMENT**

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you. (*spoken*)**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, he empowered his Church to be witnesses of Christ to the ends of the earth.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

♪ **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glory.  
You are my God, and I will exalt you.  
I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glory.**

### **The Words of Institution**

**M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.**

**C: ♪ Amen.**

♪ **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. Amen.**

### **COMMUNION HYMN: “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”**

♪ **Open now thy gates of beauty;  
Zion, let me enter there,  
where my soul in joyful duty  
waits for him who answers prayer.  
Oh, how blessed is this place,  
filled with solace, light, and grace!**

**Gracious God, I come before thee;  
come thou also unto me.  
Where we find thee and adore thee,  
there a heav’n on earth must be.  
To my heart, oh, enter thou;  
let it be thy temple now!**

**Here thy praise is gladly chanted;  
here thy seed is duly sown.  
Let my soul, where it is planted,  
bring forth precious sheaves alone,  
so that all I hear may be  
fruitful unto life in me.**

**Thou my faith increase and quicken;  
let me keep thy gift divine,  
howsoe'er temptations thicken;  
may thy Word still o'er me shine  
as my guiding star through life, as my comfort in all strife.**

**Speak, O God, and I will hear thee;  
let thy will be done indeed.  
May I undisturbed draw near thee  
while thou dost thy people feed.  
Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.**

## **THANKSGIVING**

*Please stand.*

**♪ Thank the Lord and sing his praise.  
Tell ev'ryone what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.  
He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**M:** Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **♪ 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: # 925 “On What has Now Been Sown”**

♪ **On what has now been sown your blessing, Lord, bestow;  
the pow’r is yours alone to make it spring and grow.  
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise  
and you alone shall have the praise!**

**To you our wants are known; from you are all our pow’rs.  
Accept what is your own and pardon what is ours.  
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive  
and to your Word a blessing give.**

**O, grant that each of us now met before you here  
may meet together thus when you and yours appear  
and follow you to heav’n, our home.  
E’en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!**

**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.

**THIS WEEK**

**Tuesday** ESL (English as a Second Language), **6:00 p.m.**  
**Thursday** Bible Class, **10:00 a.m.**  
ESL, **6:00-7:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday** Bible Class and Sunday School, **9:00 a.m.**  
Worship, **10:00 a.m.**

## **Christian Questions**

prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament

- 1. Do you believe that you are a sinner?** Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.
- 2. How do you know this?**  
From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.
- 3. Are you sorry for your sins?**  
Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.
- 4. What have you deserved from God because of your sins?**  
His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.  
See Romans 6:21, 23.
- 5. Do you hope to be saved?** Yes, that is my hope.
- 6. In whom then do you trust?** In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.
- 7. Who is Christ?** The Son of God, true God and man.
- 8. How many Gods are there?**  
Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 9. What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?**  
He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.
- 10. Did the Father also die for you?**  
He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.
- 11. How do you know this?**  
From the holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.
- 12. What are the words of institution?**  
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."  
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."
- 13. Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?** Yes, I believe it.
- 14. What convinces you to believe this?**  
The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.

**15. What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?**

We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

**16. Why should we remember and proclaim His death?**

First, so that we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious.

Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.

**17. What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?**

His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2; and Ephesians 5.

**18. Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?**

That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

**19. What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?**

First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

**20. But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?**

To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7.

Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and in 1 John 2 and 5.

Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.

The kingdom of God  
is like...

