



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

**“Flesh
gives birth
to *flesh*, but
the *Spirit* gives
birth to *spirit*.”**

John 3:6



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Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

4465 South Blosser Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 805-937-0339
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, June 30, 2024 *10:00 a.m.*

Sixth Sunday after PENTECOST

Theme of the day: Our God is both almighty and merciful. (What a consoling combination for the believer!) In his Word today, we see the almighty and merciful God who can bring back his people from captivity, uses us mortals in his glorious work and plans, and gives us the new birth which means new life for now and forever.

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: # 593 “Holy Spirit, Light Divine”

♪ **Holy Spirit, light divine,
shine upon this heart of mine;
chase the gloom of night away,
turn the darkness into day.**

**Holy Spirit, love divine,
cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
in your mercy pity me,
from sin’s bondage set me free.**

**Holy Spirit, joy divine,
cheer this saddened heart of mine;
fill me with your heav’nly peace,
let it grow and still increase.**

**Holy Spirit, pow’r divine,
dwell within this heart of mine;
cast down ev’ry idol throne,
reign supreme and reign alone.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Holy Spirit, fill my heart,
cleanse my life in ev’ry part;
your own temple I would be
now and for eternity.**

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: God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; 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: Lamentations 3:22-33

- ²²By the mercies of the LORD we are not consumed, for his compassions do not fail.
- ²³They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness.
- ²⁴My soul says, "The LORD is my portion. Therefore, I will hope in him."
- ²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.
- ²⁶It is good to hope quietly for the salvation of the LORD.
- ²⁷It is good for a man that he bears a yoke early in his life.
- ²⁸Let him sit alone and be silent, because the LORD has laid this upon him.
- ²⁹Let him stick his face in the dust. Perhaps there still is hope.
- ³⁰Let him turn his cheek toward the one who strikes him. Let him be filled with disgrace.
- ³¹For the Lord will not push us away forever.
- ³²Even though he brings grief, he will show compassion on the basis of his great mercy.
- ³³Certainly it is not what his heart desires when he causes affliction, when he brings grief to the children of men.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 30

Refrain

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone *

Sing to the LORD, you saints of his;*
praise his holy name.

For his anger lasts only a moment,*
but his favor lasts a lifetime;

weeping may remain for a night,*
but rejoicing comes in the morning.

Refrain

To you, O LORD, I called;*
to the Lord I cried for mercy.

Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me;*
O LORD, be my help.

You turned my wailing into dancing,*
that my heart may sing to you and not be silent.

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. The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. Alleluia. (*Lamentations 3:25*)

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: 2 Corinthians 4:7-15

⁷We hold this treasure in clay jars to show that its extraordinary power is from God and not from us. ⁸We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; perplexed, yet not despairing; ⁹persecuted, yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed. ¹⁰We always carry around in our body the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

¹¹To be sure, while we are living we are continually being handed over to death because of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our mortal flesh. ¹²So then, death is working in us, but life is working in you.

¹³Since we have that same spirit of faith, which corresponds to what is written: “I believed; therefore, I have spoken,” we also believe, and therefore we speak. ¹⁴For we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and bring us (together with you) into his presence. ¹⁵In fact, all this is for your benefit, so that as grace increases, it will overflow to the glory of God, as more and more people give thanks.

HYMN: # 570 “God Loved the World So That He Gave”

♪ God loved the world so that he gave
his only Son the lost to save
that all who would in him believe
should everlasting life receive.

Christ is the solid rock of faith,
who was made flesh and suffered death.
All who confide in him alone
are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die;
his Son with saving grace is nigh.
His Spirit in the Word declares
that we in Christ are heaven’s heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son
forgives the sins that you have done.
You’re justified by Jesus’ blood;
baptized, you are a child of God.

If you are sick, if death is near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;
this is the anchor of my faith!

**Glory to God the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!**

SERMON: John 3:1-17

“Born Again to See the True God and His Love for Us”

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these miraculous signs you are doing unless God is with him.”

³Jesus replied, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”

⁵Jesus answered, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God!

⁶Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. ⁸The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹“How can these things be?” asked Nicodemus.

¹⁰“You are the teacher of Israel,” Jesus answered, “and you do not know these things? ¹¹Amen, Amen, I tell you: We speak what we know, and we testify about what we have seen. But you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven, except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven.

¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

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: # 560 "Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ"

**♪ Your works, not mine, O Christ, speak gladness to this heart;
they tell me all is done, they bid my fear depart.
To whom but you, who can alone
for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?**

**Your blood, not mine, O Christ, can heal my sinful soul;
your wounds, not mine, contain
the balm that makes me whole.
To whom but you, who can alone
for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?**

**Your cross, not mine, O Christ, has borne the dreadful load
of sins that none could bear but the incarnate God.
To whom but you, who can alone
for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?**

**Your death, not mine, O Christ, has paid the ransom due;
ten thousand deaths like mine would have been all too few.
To whom but you, who can alone
for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?**

**Your righteousness, O Christ, alone can cover me;
no other righteousness can set a sinner free.
To whom but you, who can alone
for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?**

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: # 930 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

**♪ Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

**Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

**Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.**

**I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, my children; I will keep you and give you peace.**

WELS CONNECTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service were given to the glory of God by Holly in celebration of Scotty'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 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.
	No ESL
Sunday	Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

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