



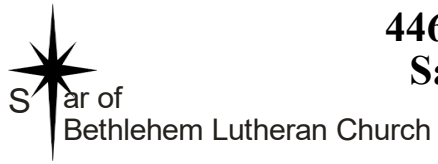
**NORTHWESTERN**  
PUBLISHING HOUSE

“It is from within,  
out of a person’s heart,  
that evil thoughts  
come. . . .  
All these evils  
come from inside  
and defile a person.”

Mark 7:21,23



**NORTHWESTERN**  
PUBLISHING HOUSE



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, September 1, 2024 10:00 a.m.*

### Fifteenth Sunday after PENTECOST

**Theme of the day:** Jesus wants to so deepen our understanding of his grace that he becomes all in all to us. The emphasis in the readings for this Sunday is the truth that all God pleasing obedience must begin in the heart. As so often, the *Prayer of the Day* affords us a good summary of the thoughts for the day.

## 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: # 921 “Come, Thou Almighty King”**

♪ **Come, thou, almighty King, help us thy name to sing;  
help us to praise.  
Father all-glorious, o’er all victorious,  
come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.**

**Come, thou, incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword;  
our prayer attend.  
Come and thy people bless, and give thy Word success,  
and let thy righteousness, on us descend.**

**Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear  
in this glad hour!  
Thou who almighty art, now rule in ev’ry heart;  
and ne’er from us depart, Spirit of pow’r.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be  
hence evermore!  
Thy sov’reign majesty may we in glory see,  
and to eternity love and adore.**

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: 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 and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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: Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9

So now, Israel, listen to the statutes and the ordinances that I am teaching you, and carry them out so that you may live and so that you may enter the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving to you and take possession of it. <sup>2</sup>Do not add to the word that I am commanding you, and do not subtract from it, so that you keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you.

<sup>6</sup>Keep them and put them into practice, because in this way your wisdom and your understanding will be recognized by all the people who hear about all these statutes; and they will say, “This great nation is certainly a wise and understanding people,” <sup>7</sup>because what other great nation is there that has a god as close to it as the LORD our God is to us whenever we call on him? <sup>8</sup>What other great nation is there that has statutes and ordinances as righteous as this entire law that I am presenting to you today?

<sup>9</sup>But guard yourselves and guard your whole being diligently, so that you do not forget the things that your eyes have seen and so that those things do not disappear from your heart all the rest of the days of your life. Make them known to your children and to your children’s children.

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 119b

### *Refrain*

Lord, you have the words of  
ev - er - last - ing life.

### *Psalm tone*

Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees; \*  
then I will keep them to the end.

**Give me understanding, and I will keep your law\*  
and obey it with all my heart.**

**Direct me in the path of your commands,\*  
for there I find delight.**

*Refrain*

**Turn my eyes away from worthless things;\*  
preserve my life according to your Word.**

**Fulfill your promise to your servant,\*  
so that you may be feared.**

**How I long for your precepts!\*  
Preserve my life in your righteousness.**

**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. Your words came to me, and I devoured them. Your words became my joy, the delight of my heart, because I bear your name. Alleluia! (Jeremiah 15:16)**

**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: Romans 9:30-10:4**

<sup>30</sup>What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who were not pursuing righteousness, have obtained righteousness, a righteousness that is by faith. <sup>31</sup>But Israel, while pursuing the law as a way of righteousness, did not reach it. <sup>32</sup>Why? Because they kept pursuing it not by faith, but as if it comes by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. <sup>33</sup>Just as it is written:

**Look, I am putting a stone in Zion over which they will stumble and a rock over which they will fall.**

**The one who believes in him will not be put to shame.**

**10 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God on behalf of the Israelites is that they may be saved. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but it is not consistent with knowledge. <sup>3</sup>Since they were ignorant of the righteousness from God and sought to establish their own righteousness, they did not submit to the righteousness from God. <sup>4</sup>For to everyone who believes, Christ is the end of the law, resulting in righteousness.**

## **HYMN: # 740 "O God, My Faithful God"**

♪ **O God, my faithful God, O Fountain ever flowing,  
who good and perfect gifts in mercy are bestowing,  
give me a healthy frame, and may I have within  
a conscience free from blame, a soul unhurt by sin.**

**Grant me the strength to do with ready heart and willing  
whatever you command, my calling here fulfilling,  
that I do what I should while trusting you to bless  
the outcome for my good, for you must give success.**

**Keep me from saying things that later need recalling;  
grant that no idle words may from my lips be falling,  
but when within in my place I must and ought to speak,  
then fill my words with grace lest I offend the weak.**

**Lord, let me win my foes with kindly words and actions,  
and let me find good friends for counsel and correction.  
Help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small  
and by your Spirit's might to live in peace with all.**

## **SERMON: Mark 7:1-8,14,15,21-23**

**The Pharisees and some of the experts in the law came from Jerusalem and gathered around Jesus. <sup>2</sup>They saw some of his disciples eating bread with unclean (that is, unwashed) hands. <sup>3</sup>In fact, the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they scrub their hands with a fist, holding to the tradition of the elders. <sup>4</sup>When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions they adhere to, such as the washing of cups, pitchers, kettles, and dining couches. <sup>5</sup>The Pharisees and the experts in the law asked Jesus, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders? Instead they eat bread with unclean hands.”**

**<sup>6</sup>He answered them, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites. As it is written:**

**These people honor me with their lips,  
but their heart is far from me.**

**<sup>7</sup>They worship me in vain, teaching human rules as if they were doctrines.**

**<sup>8</sup>“You abandon God’s commandment but hold to human tradition like the washing of pitchers and cups, and you do many other such things.”**

**<sup>14</sup>He called the crowd to him again and said, “Everyone, listen to me and understand. <sup>15</sup>There is nothing outside of a man that can make him unclean by going into him. But the things that come out of a man are what make a man unclean.**

**<sup>21</sup>In fact, from within, out of people’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual sins, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, unrestrained immorality, envy, slander, arrogance, and foolishness. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things proceed from within and make a person unclean.”**

## **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**

#### **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 deliv-  
er us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glo-  
ry forever and ever. Amen.**

#### **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.**

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 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.**

**HYMN: # 558:1,6-10 "Salvation unto Us Has Come"**

**♪ Salvation unto us has come  
by God's free grace and favor;  
good works cannot avert our doom,  
they help and save us never.  
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,  
who did for all the world atone;  
he is our one Redeemer.**

**Since Christ has full atonement made  
and brought to us salvation,  
each Christian therefore may be glad  
and build on this foundation.  
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,  
your death is now my life indeed,  
for you have paid my ransom.**

**Let me not doubt, but truly see  
your Word cannot be broken;  
your call rings out, "Come unto me!"  
No falsehood have you spoken.  
Baptized into your precious name,  
my faith cannot be put to shame,  
and I shall never perish.**

**The law reveals the guilt of sin  
and makes us conscience-stricken;  
but then the gospel enters in  
the sinful soul to quicken.  
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live;  
the law no peace can ever give,  
no comfort and no blessing.**

**Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone  
and rests in him unceasing;  
and by its fruits true faith is known,  
with love and hope increasing.  
For faith alone can justify;  
works serve our neighbor and supply  
the proof that faith is living**

**All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise  
to Father, Son, and Spirit,  
the God who saved us by his grace;  
all glory to his merit!  
O Triune God in heav'n above,  
you have revealed your saving love;  
your blessed name be hallowed!**

## **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: # 626 "My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness"**

**♪ My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who bore my pain,  
who plumbed the depths of my disgrace  
and gave me life again,  
who crushed my curse of sinfulness and clothed me in his light  
and wrote his law of righteousness with pow'r upon my heart.**

**My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who walks beside,  
who floods my weaknesses with strength and causes fears to fly,  
whose ev'ry promise is enough for ev'ry step I take,  
sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace.**

**My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who reigns above,  
whose wisdom is my perfect peace, whose ev'ry thought is love.  
For ev'ry day I have on earth is given by the King.  
So I will give my life, my all, to love and follow him.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service were given to the glory of God by Terry & Chris in celebration of their 53rd 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, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Judy Washburn, Marlene Washburn, Terry's siblings Linda & Carp, Kathryn Pereira, Helen Cummings, and Phil Schaaf.

## **THIS WEEK**

**Thursday Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Worship, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Fellowship Lunch and Voters' Meeting after**

## **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.

