

People were
overwhelmed
with amazement.
“He has done
everything well,”
they said.

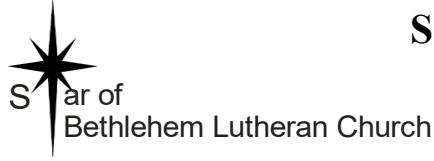
Mark 7:37a



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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, September 8, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Sixteenth Sunday after PENTECOST

Theme of the day: Unbelief mocks and says that if God did all things well and was the source of all good, then he shouldn't allow misery and need. But especially in need and suffering God does all things well; that truth is the center of our quiet confidence. It is the reason for our hope based on the promises of God and earned for us by the work of Christ and its eternal consequences for us.

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: # 765 “O Son of God, in Galilee”

(alternate melody)

♪ **O Son of God, in Galilee you made the deaf to hear,
the mute to speak, the blind to see;
O blessed Lord, be near.**

**O listen to the silent prayer of your afflicted ones.
O bid them cast on you their care;
your grace to them make known.**

**The speechless tongue, the lifeless ear
you can restore, O Lord;
your “Ephphatha,” O Savior dear,
can instant help afford.**

**Meanwhile to them the list’ning ear of steadfast faith impart,
and let your Word bring light and cheer
to ev’ry troubled heart.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Then in your promised happy land each loss will prove a gain;
all myst’ries we shall understand,
for you will make them plain.**

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.

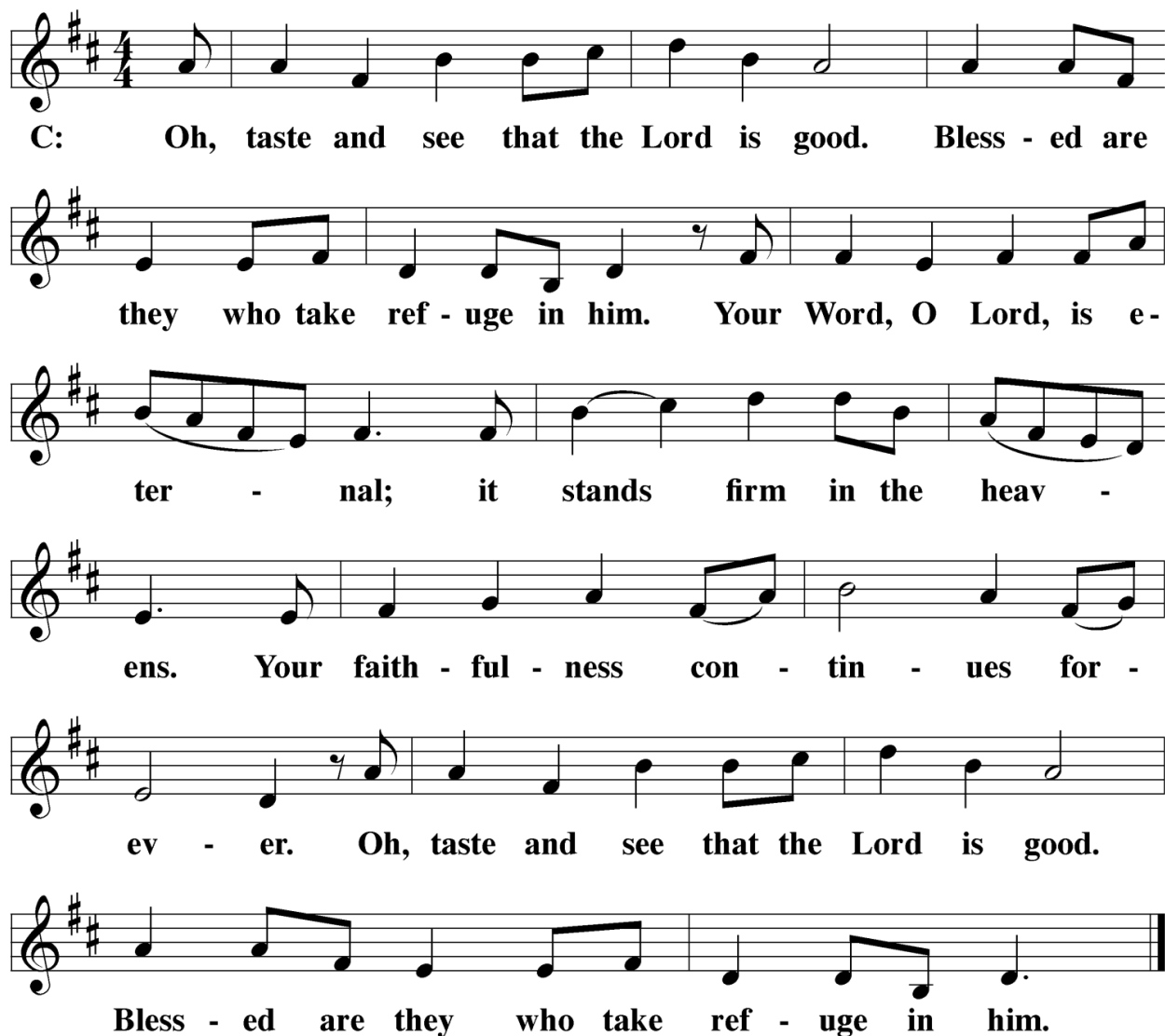
C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

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: O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; 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: Isaiah 35:4-7a

- ⁴Tell those who have a fearful heart:
Be strong.
Do not be afraid.
Look! Your God will come with vengeance.
With God's own retribution, he will come and save you.
- ⁵Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,
and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged.
- ⁶The crippled will leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.
Waters will flow in the wilderness,
and streams in the wasteland.
- ⁷The burning sand will become a pool,
and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water.

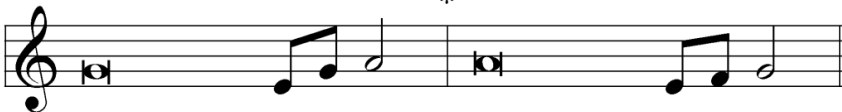
PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 146

Refrain



I will praise your name for - ev-er, my King and my God.

Psalm tone



Praise the LORD, O my soul.*
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes,*
in mortal men, who cannot save.

Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God,*
the maker of heaven and earth.

Refrain

**The LORD gives food to the hungry,*
the LORD sets prisoners free.**

**The LORD gives sight to the blind,*
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.**

**The LORD watches over the outcast*
and sustains the fatherless and the widow.**

**The LORD remains faithful forever.*
He upholds the cause of the oppressed.**

**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. Look, here is our God! We waited for him, and he saved us! Let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation! Alleluia.

(Isaiah 25:9)

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: Acts 3:1-10

Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, an hour of prayer. ²A certain man who was lame from birth was carried there every day and placed at the temple gate, which is called Beautiful, so that he could beg for donations from those entering the temple. ³When he saw Peter and John about to enter the temple, he asked them for a donation.

⁴Peter looked directly at him, as did John. Peter said, “Look at us.” ⁵So the man paid close attention to them, expecting to receive something from them.

⁶But Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I will give you. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!” ⁷Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately the man’s feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸Jumping up, he stood and began to walk. He entered the temple courts with them, walking, jumping, and praising God.

⁹All the people saw him walking and praising God.

¹⁰They recognized him as the one who used to sit begging for money at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

HYMN: # 769 “Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old”

(alternate melody)

♪ Your hand, O Lord, in days of old
was strong to heal and save;
it triumphed over pain and death,
o’er darkness and the grave.
To you they came, the blind, the mute,
the paralyzed and lame,
the lepers in their misery,
the sick with fevered frame.

Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,
gave speech and strength and sight;
and youth renewed and frenzy calmed
revealed you, Lord of light.
And now, O Lord, be near to bless, almighty as before,
in crowded street, by beds of pain,
as by Gennes’ret’s shore.

O be our great deliv’rer still, the Lord of life and death;
restore and quicken, soothe and bless,
with your life-giving breath.
To hands that work and eyes that see
give wisdom’s healing pow’r
that whole and sick and weak and strong
may praise you evermore.

SERMON: Mark 7:31-37

³¹Jesus left the region of Tyre again and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of the Decapolis.

³²They brought a man to him who was deaf and had a speech impediment. They pleaded with Jesus to place his hand on him.

³³Jesus took him aside in private, away from the crowd. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴After he looked up to heaven, he sighed and said, "*Ephphatha!*" (which means "Be opened!") ³⁵Immediately the man's ears were opened, his tongue was set free, and he began to speak plainly. ³⁶Jesus gave the people strict orders to tell no one, but the more he did so, the more they kept proclaiming it. ³⁷They were amazed beyond measure and said, "He has done everything well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!"

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: # 537 "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"

♪ **Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.**

**Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die,
crucified for our salvation,
saving Word, the world restoring,
speak to us, your love outpouring.**

**Word that caused blind eyes to see,
speak and heal our mortal blindness;
deaf we are: our healer be;
loose our tongues to tell your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken,
heal the world, by our sin broken.**

**Word that speaks your Father's love,
one with him beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above,
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one bread feed us.**

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: 520 “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”
(alternate melody)

♪ Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer’s praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad,
the honors of your name.

The name of Jesus calms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease;
’tis music in the sinners ears,
’tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow’r of canceled sin;
he sets the pris’ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood avails for me.

See all your sins on Jesus laid;
the Lamb of God was slain.
His life was once an off’ring made
that you might live again.

To God all glory, praise, and love
be ever, ever giv’n
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heav’n.

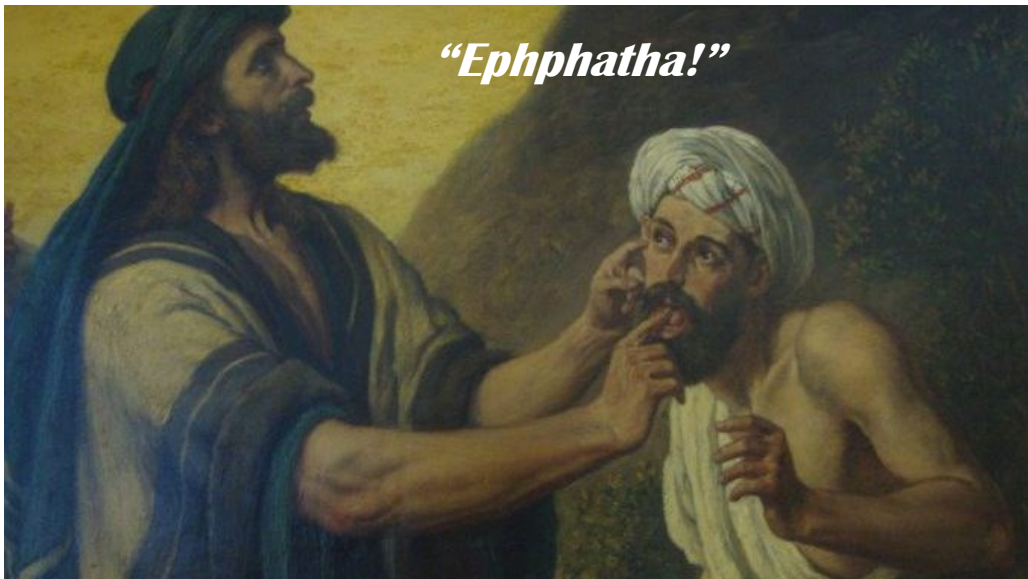
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, Helen Cummings, and Phil Schaaf.

LWMS 2025 CALENDARS coming soon! See Chris Oberg for how to order yours.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday	Circuit Meeting (Tarzana) 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 with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.



LWMS Fall Rally - October 12, 2024



LWMS Fall Rally - October 12, 2024

Zion - 1001 W. 223rd Street Torrance, CA

Guest speaker: Rev. Steve Degner

NEW Rally Format Trial :

Registration starts at 8:30 - done by 1 pm with to
-go lunch or stay for lunch

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