



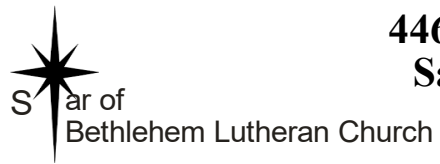
**NORTHWESTERN**  
PUBLISHING HOUSE

**“Truly I tell you,  
anyone who will not  
receive the kingdom of God  
like a little child  
will never enter it.”**

**(Mark 10:15)**



**NORTHWESTERN**  
PUBLISHING HOUSE



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, October 6, 2024 10:00 a.m.*

### Twentieth Sunday after PENTECOST

**Theme of the day:** The closest we can get to a mirror of the love of God for us is the mirror of the love that he wants us to have for one another in the family. The goal of family members is to reflect the love of God for us in self-giving love for one another. How tragic that in our society such a mirror is so clouded! There is much to repent of and much to strive toward.

## 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: # 505 “For the Beauty of the Earth”**

♪ **For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night;  
hill and vale, and tree and flow’r,  
sun and moon, and stars of light:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind’s delight,  
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above;  
for all gentle thoughts and mild:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**For thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv’n;  
for that great, great love of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heav’n:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

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 glorious is your name in all the earth.  
Almighty God, merciful Father,  
you crown our life with your love.  
You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;  
you make us pure and holy in your sight.  
You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.  
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.  
O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father,  
you came to live with us;  
you made your Father known;  
you washed us from our sins in your own blood.  
You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!  
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

M: Loving God and Father, the blessings of marriage and family come from your gracious pleasure and careful design. Lead all who value these gifts to follow your path of wisdom so that they may enjoy the fullness of your 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: Genesis 2:18-25

<sup>18</sup>The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is a suitable partner for him.” <sup>19</sup>Out of the soil the LORD God had formed every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them. Whatever the man called every living creature, that became its name. <sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all the livestock, and to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal, but for Adam no helper was found who was a suitable partner for him. <sup>21</sup>The LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. As the man slept, the LORD God took a rib and closed up the flesh where it had been. <sup>22</sup>The LORD God built a woman from the rib that he had taken from the man and brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup>The man said,

Now this one is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.

She will be called “woman,” because she was taken out of man.

<sup>24</sup>For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will remain united with his wife, and they will become one flesh.

<sup>25</sup>They were both naked, the man and his wife, and they were not ashamed.

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 139b

*Refrain*



I will praise you, O Lord, for I am won - der - ful - ly made.



**O LORD, you created my inmost being;\*  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

**I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;\*  
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.**

**My frame was not hidden from you;\*  
your eyes saw my unformed body.**

***Refrain***

**All the days ordained for me\*  
were written in your book before one of them came to be.**

**How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!\*  
How vast is the sum of them!**

**Were I to count them,\*  
they would outnumber the grains of sand.**

**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. Walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for  
us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Alleluia!**  
*(Ephesians 5:2)*

**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 10:2-16**

<sup>2</sup>Some Pharisees came to test him and asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”

<sup>3</sup>He replied, “What did Moses command you?”

<sup>4</sup>They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.”

<sup>5</sup>But Jesus told them, “He wrote this command for you because of your hard hearts. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. <sup>7</sup>For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

<sup>10</sup>In the house his disciples asked him about this again. <sup>11</sup>He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. <sup>12</sup>If she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

<sup>13</sup>Some people began bringing little children to Jesus so that he would touch them. But the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup>When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said, “Let the little children come to me! Do not hinder them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup>Amen I tell you: Whoever will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup>And he took the little children in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

## **HYMN: # 761 “Our Father, by Whose Name”**

♪ Our Father, by whose name all fatherhood is known,  
in love divine you claim each fam’ly as your own.  
Bless mothers, fathers, guarding well,  
with constant love as sentinel,  
the homes in which your people dwell.

O Christ, yourself a child within an earthly home,  
with heart still undefiled you did to manhood come.  
Our children bless in ev’ry place  
that they may all behold your face  
and, knowing you, may grow in grace.

**O Holy Spirit, bind our hearts in unity,  
and teach us how to find the love from self set free.  
In all our hearts such love increase  
that ev'ry home by this release  
may be the dwelling place of peace.**

### **SERMON: Ephesians 5:22-6:4**

<sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife, just as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he himself is the Savior. <sup>24</sup>Moreover, as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, in the same way as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy, by cleansing her with the washing of water in connection with the Word. <sup>27</sup>He did this so that he could present her to himself as a glorious church, having no stain or wrinkle or any such thing, but so that she would be holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup>In the same way, husbands have an obligation to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>To be sure, no one has ever hated his own body, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup>because we are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones. <sup>31</sup>“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will be one flesh.”

<sup>32</sup>This is a great mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>In any case, each one of you also is to love his wife as himself, and each wife is to respect her husband.

**6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.**

<sup>2</sup>“Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with a promise: <sup>3</sup>“that it may go well with you and that you may live a long life on the earth.” <sup>4</sup>Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

### **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  
glory 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.**

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.

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.**

**HYMN: # 861 “Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head”**

♪ **Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s head,  
you are her one foundation;  
in you she trusts, before you bows, and waits for your salvation.  
Built on this rock secure, your Church shall endure  
though all the world decay and all things pass away.  
O hear, O hear us, Jesus!**

**O Lord, let this your little flock, your name alone confessing,  
continue in your loving care, true unity possessing.  
Your sacraments, O Lord, and your saving Word  
to us e’er pure retain; grant that they may remain  
our only strength and comfort.**

**Help us to serve you evermore with hearts both pure and lowly;  
and may your Word, that light divine, shine on in splendor holy  
that we repentance show, in faith ever grow;  
the pow’r of sin destroy And evils that annoy.  
O make us faithful Christians.**

**And for your gospel let us dare to sacrifice all treasure;  
teach us to bear your bless-ed cross, to find in you all pleasure.  
O grant us steadfastness in joy and distress.  
Lord, for your mercy’s sake, let us by grace partake  
of endless joy and glory.**

**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: # 760:1,2,5 “Oh, Blest the House”**

♪ Oh, blest the house, whate’er befall,  
where Jesus Christ is all in all!  
A home that is not wholly his—  
how sad and poor and dark it is!

Oh, blest that house where faith is found  
and all in hope and love abound;  
they trust their God and serve him still  
and do in all his holy will.

Then here will I and mine today  
a solemn promise make and say:  
though all the world forsake his Word,  
I and my house will serve the Lord!

### **THIS WEEK**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>ESL (English as a Second Language), 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.</b>
	<b>Elders’ Meeting</b>
	<b>ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>LWMS RALLY: Zion, Torrance, 8:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.</b>
	<b>Worship, 10:00 a.m.</b>
	<b>Fellowship Lunch and Voters’ Meeting after</b>

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service were given to the glory of God by the Evers in celebration of Sarah's birthday.

**PRAYERS:** Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Molly Webb & her 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 Oberg's siblings Linda and Carp, Kathryn Pereira, Helen Cummings, Phil Schaaf, and Joe Wilkinson.



**LWMS Fall Rally - October 12, 2024**

**Zion - 1001 W. 223<sup>rd</sup> 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

## **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.

**LA Circuit of the AZCA District of the WELS**

**celebrates a**

**Joint Reformation Service**



**St Paul's First Lutheran Church  
5244 Tujunga Ave  
North Hollywood, CA 91601**

**Sunday, October 27 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Speaker: Pastor James Proeber**

**Special Music provided by  
Adult Choir & Children's Choir**

**Fellowship Meal to Follow**

**[www.starlutheran.org](http://www.starlutheran.org)**