



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

IN THE LAST DAYS,

GOD SAYS,

I WILL POUR OUT MY

Spirit

ON ALL PEOPLE.



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PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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, May 24, 2026 10:00 a.m.

The Day of PENTECOST

Theme of the day: The fifty days have passed and the promised Holy Spirit is poured out upon the Bride of Christ. The once-hidden gospel is no longer the possession of a chosen few. For the Spirit enables the message of salvation to inflame hearts for bearing witness to the ends of the earth.

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: # 592 “Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”

♪ **Holy Spirit, ever dwelling in the holiest realms of light,
Holy Spirit, ever brooding o’er a world of gloom and night,
Holy Spirit, ever raising those of earth to thrones on high,
living, life-imparting Spirit, you we praise and magnify.**

**Holy Spirit, ever living as the Church’s very life,
Holy Spirit, ever striving through us in a ceaseless strife,
Holy Spirit, ever forming in the Church the mind of Christ,
you we praise with endless worship
for your gracious gifts unpriced.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Holy Spirit, ever working through the Church’s ministry,
teaching, strength’ning, and absolving,
setting captive sinners free,
Holy Spirit, ever binding age to age and soul to soul
in communion never ending, you we worship and extol.**

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: Holy Spirit, God and Lord, come to us this joyful day with your sevenfold gift of grace. Rekindle in our hearts the holy fire of your love that in a true and living faith we may tell abroad the glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON: 1 Corinthians 12:3-11

³Therefore I am informing you that no one speaking by God's Spirit says, "A curse be upon Jesus," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴There are various kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵There are different kinds of ministries, and yet the same Lord. ⁶There are various kinds of activity, but the same God, who produces all of them in everyone.

⁷Each person is given a manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one person a message of wisdom is given by the Spirit; to another, a message of knowledge, as the same Spirit provides it; ⁹by the same Spirit, faith is given to someone else; and to another, the same Spirit gives healing gifts. ¹⁰Another is given powers to do miracles; another, the gift of prophecy; another, the evaluating of spirits; someone else, different kinds of tongues; and another, the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹One and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them to each one individually as he desires.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 51

Refrain

Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, re - new our hearts and
kin - dle in us the fire of your love.

Psalm tone

*

O Lord, open my lips,*
and my mouth will declare your praise.

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;*
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Refrain

**Create in me a pure heart, O God,*
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

**Do not cast me from your presence*
or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,*
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

**Then I will teach transgressors your ways,*
and sinners will turn back to you.**

**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. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people,
and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

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 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the rushing of a violent wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw divided tongues that were like fire resting on each one of them. ⁴They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, since the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak fluently.

⁵Now there were godly Jewish men from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶When this sound was heard, a crowd came together and was confused, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

⁷They were completely baffled and said to each other, “Look, are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? ⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them speaking in his own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, and of Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt, and the parts of Libya around Cyrene; visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring in our own languages the wonderful works of God.” ¹²They were all amazed and perplexed. They kept saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others mocked them and said, “They are full of new wine.”

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them: “Men of Judea, and all you residents of Jerusalem, understand this, and listen closely to my words. ¹⁵These men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶On the contrary, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷This is what God says will happen in the last days:
I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions. Your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

¹⁹I will show wonders in the sky above, and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and a rising cloud of smoke.

²⁰The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

²¹And this will happen: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

HYMN: # 588 “Come, O Come, Life-Giving Spirit”

♪ Come, O, come, life-giving Spirit, God from all eternity!
May your power never fail us; dwell within us constantly.
Then shall truth and life and light
banish all the gloom of night.

Show us, Lord, the path of blessing;
when we trespass on our way,
cast, O Lord, our sins behind you and be with us day by day.
Should we stray, O Lord, recall;
work repentance when we fall.

**Spirit, guard our faith forever; let not Satan, death, or shame
ever part us from our Savior.
Lord, our refuge is your name!
When our hearts oppose your will,
let your Word prove stronger still.**

**And when life's frail thread is breaking,
then assure us more and more, as the heirs of life unending,
of the glory there in store, glory never yet expressed,
glory of the saints at rest.**

SERMON: John 7:37-39

**³⁷On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and called out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink!
³⁸As the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from deep within the person who believes in me."
³⁹By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were going to receive. For the Holy Spirit had not yet come, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.**

Apostles' Creed - Third Article

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

HYMN: # 394 “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

**♪ Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall;
here a pure and healing fountain flows to you, to me, to all,
in a full, perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died.**

**Come in poverty and meanness, come defiled, without, within;
from infection and uncleanness, from the leprosy of sin,
wash your robes and make them white;
you shall walk with God in light.**

**Come in sorrow and contrition,
wounded, paralyzed, and blind;
here the guilty, free remission,
here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
they that drink shall thirst no more.**

**They that drink shall live forever; ’tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never break his covenant of blood,
signed when our Redeemer died,
sealed when he was glorified.**

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: “Saints of God, the Dawn Is Brightening”
(melody of # 927)

♪ **Saints of God, the dawn is bright’ning,
Promise of our coming Lord.
O’er the earth the fields are rip’ning;
Louder rings the Master’s word:
Pray for reapers, Pray for reapers
In the harvest of the Lord.**

**Now, O Lord, fulfill your pleasure,
Breathe upon your chosen band,
And with Pentecostal measure
Send forth reapers o’er our land,
Faithful reapers, Faithful reapers,
Gath’ring sheaves for your right hand.**

**Soon shall end the time of weeping;
Soon the reaping time will come,
Heav’n and earth together keeping
God’s eternal harvest-home.
Saints and angels, Saints and angels
Shout the world’s great harvest-home.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS this morning are given to the glory of God by the Evers in celebration of Jared's birthday.

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: little Elias, Dennis Douglas, George Caravana, Molly Webb, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Rylan Downs, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Marlene Washburn, Helen Cummings, Delores Bass, Rick Stovall, Suzy Garvin, Linda Wilkinson, Kathie Stillwater, and Louise Perry.

“Hi, We’re Your Neighbors at Star”- Big, fun, promotional, fellowship, outreach day at Waller Park, Saturday, August 22. Start thinking about 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.

Good Shepherd Bible Camp: July 12-18, grades 4-10. See Pastor Foley for more information and registration forms. Or check out: goodshepherdbiblecamp.com

In Arlington National Cemetery, there is a memorial plaque posted for the “Unknown Soldier” originally from World War I. And then another from World War II and the Korean War and the war in Vietnam. The plaque reads: “Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God.” The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is always guarded by an elite honor guard. There are ceremonies. Presidential wreaths. To be reminded of and to honor those who gave the last full measure of devotion, as President Lincoln so eloquently put it. And even before that there was Memorial Day, which we commemorate tomorrow. Established to be a time for remembering our war dead. And well we should remember those who gave up their lives to win or keep our freedom.

How much more so with our greatest freedom ever? One that doesn’t show up in the Constitution or the Bill of Rights. The freedom from the punishment our sins deserve. The freedom from slavery to the devil. Freedom from eternal death. Do we need a special holiday – or even just a Sunday – to remember the valiant One whom God the Father chose to fight for us? Well, as we remember our war dead and what they sacrificed and what they have won and preserved for us, our thoughts should go back even further – to another cemetery. The cemetery in Joseph’s garden. There a Soldier was laid to rest after single-handedly defeating the hosts of hell. There God buried our sins with Jesus and didn’t mark the grave. And there the Soldier didn’t stay dead. His bones are no longer there. He has risen to prove our victory. To give us a life of freedom for now and forever. Remember Jesus.

1 Peter 3:15- In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.

