NORTHWESTERN
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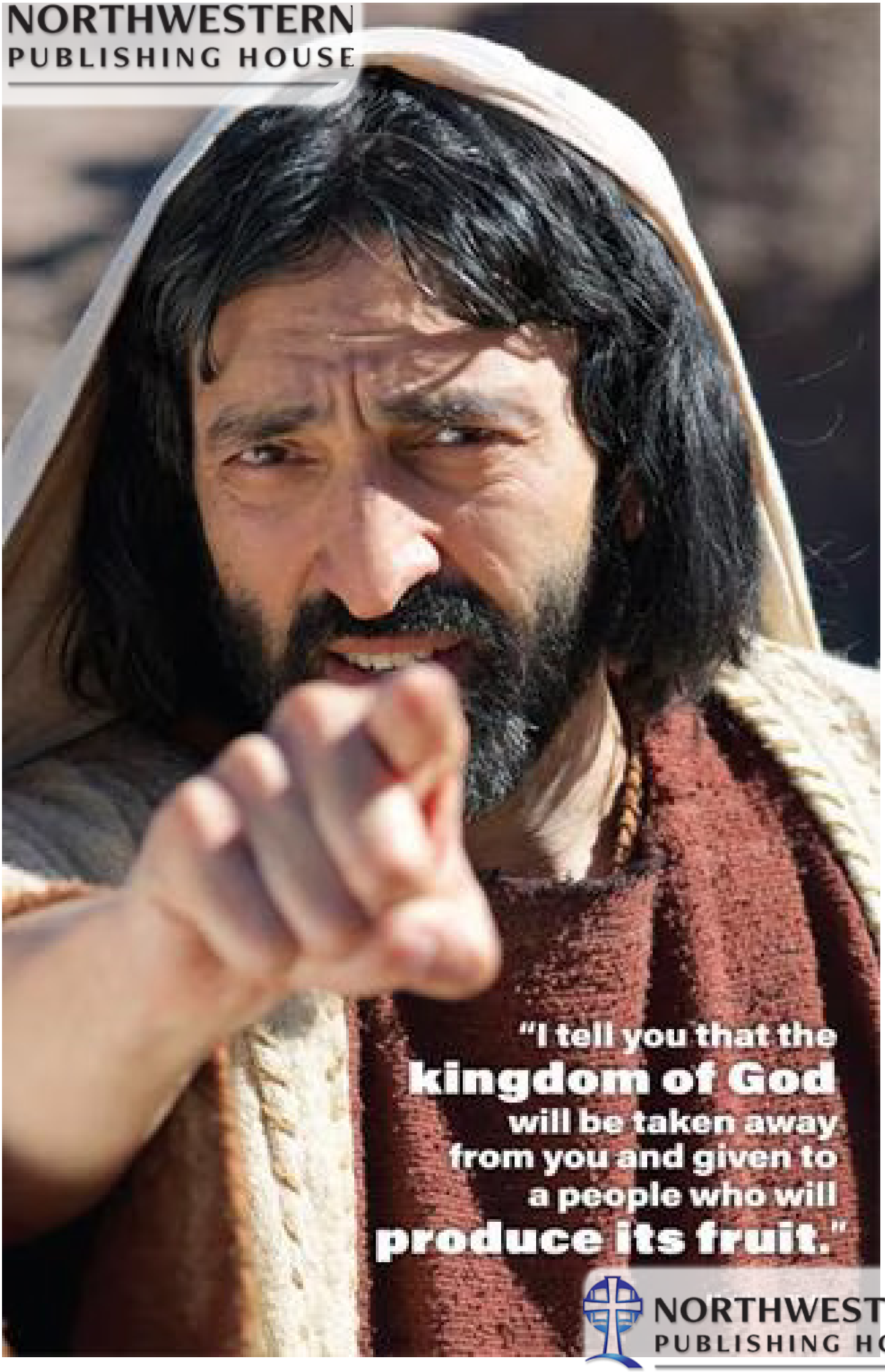

NORTHWESTERN
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Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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

Worship Service

Sunday, October 4, 2026 10:00 a.m.

The Nineteenth Sunday after PENTECOST

Theme of the day: Faith is the very foundation of the Christian life. Faith, worked by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, allows us to do great things for the Lord and see eternal life as our ultimate goal. Let us thank God daily for his gift of faith.

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.

HYMN: # 871 **"Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You"**

♫ **Rise! To arms! With prayer employ you,**
O Christians, lest the foe destroy you,
for Satan has designed your fall.
Wield God's Word, a weapon glorious;
against each foe you'll be victorious,
for God will set you o'er them all.
Fear not the prince of hell, here is Immanuel!
Sing hosanna! The strong ones yield to Christ, our shield,
and we as conqu'rors hold the field.

Cast afar this world's vain pleasure
and boldly strive for heav'nly treasure.
Be steadfast in the Savior's might.
Trust the Lord, who stands beside you,
for Jesus from all harm will hide you.
By faith you'll conquer in the fight.
Take courage, weary soul! Look forward to the goal!
Joy awaits you. The race, then, run; your battle done,
the crown of glory will be won.

Please stand for last verse:

Jesus, all your children cherish,
and keep them that they never perish
whom you have purchased with your blood.
Let new life to us be given that we may look to you in heaven
whenever fearful is our mood.
Your Spirit on us pour that we may love you more,
hearts o'erflowing; and then shall we,
from sin set free, sing praise through all 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: 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: Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

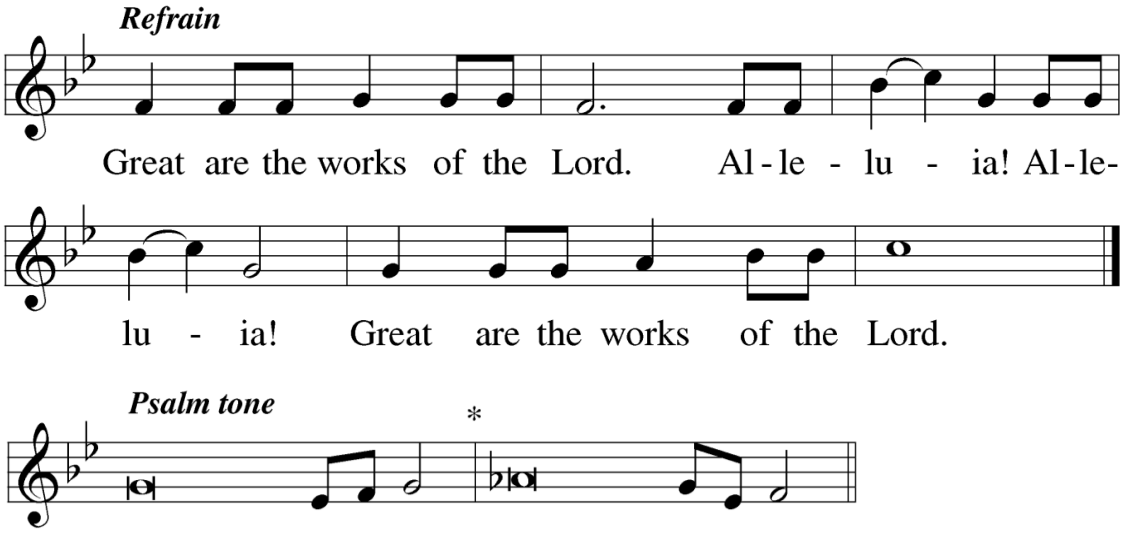
C: ♫ Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my loved one a song about my loved one's vine-
yard.
My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile ridge.
[2]He dug it up and gathered the stones out of it.
He planted it with the best vines.
He built a tower in the middle of it.
He also cut a winepress into it.
He expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes,
but it produced only sour grapes.
[3]So now, you residents of Jerusalem and you men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
[4]What more could have been done for my vineyard
that I have not already done for it?
When I expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes,
why did it produce sour grapes?
[5]Now, let me tell you what I will do to my vineyard.
I will take away its hedge, and it will become a pasture.
I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled down.
[6]I will make it a wasteland.
It will not be pruned or hoed.
So briers and thorns will shoot up.
I will also command the clouds not to pour rain on it.
[7]Yes, the vineyard of the LORD of Armies is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah are the planting that was pleasing to him.
He expected justice, but instead there was oppression.
He expected righteousness, but there was an outcry.

PSALM of the Day: Psalm 45



**My heart is stirred by a noble theme*
as I recite my verses for the King.**

**You are the most excellent of men,*
and your lips have been anointed with grace.**

**Gird your sword upon your side, O Mighty One;*
clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.**

**In your majesty ride forth victoriously;*
let your right hand display awesome deeds.**

Refrain

**Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;*
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.**

**You love righteousness and hate wickedness;*
therefore God has anointed you with the oil of joy.**

**I will perpetuate your memory through all generations;*
therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.**

**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. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them. Alleluia. *(Ephesians 2:10)*

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: Matthew 21:33-43

[33]"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. He leased it out to some tenant farmers and went away on a journey. [34]When the time approached to harvest the fruit, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. [35]The tenant farmers seized his servants. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. [36]Then the landowner sent even more servants than the first time. The tenant farmers treated them the same way. [37]Finally, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. [38]But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance!' [39]They took him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. [40]So when the landowner comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?"

[41]They told him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end. Then he will lease out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him his fruit when it is due."

[42]Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:
The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?

[43]"That is why I tell you the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruit.

HYMN: # 876 **"Fight the Good Fight"**

♫ Fight the good fight with all your might;
Christ is your strength and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
your joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace;
lift up your eyes and seek his face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on your guide;
his boundless mercy will provide.
Lean, and the trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear, his arms are near;
he changes not, and you are dear.
Only believe, and you will see
that Christ is Lord eternally.

SERMON: Philippians 3:12-21

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached
the goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus
also took hold of me. 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself to have
taken hold of it yet, but there is one thing I do: Forgetting the
things that are behind and straining toward the things that are
ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call
of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore, let all of us who are mature
continue to think this way. And if you think differently about any-
thing, God will reveal this to you too. 16 Only let us think the same
thing and walk in line with what we already have attained.
17 Brothers, join together in imitating me and in paying atten-
tion to those who are walking according to the pattern we gave you.
18 To be sure, many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. I told
you about them often, and now I am saying it while weeping.
19 Their end is destruction, their god is their appetite, and their glo-
ry is in their shame. They are thinking only about earthly things.
20 But our citizenship is in heaven. We are eagerly waiting for a
Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. 21 By the power that ena-
bles him to subject all things to himself, he will transform our hum-
ble bodies to be like his glorious body.

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

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.

THE HOLY SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: ♫ And also with you.

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! He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN: # 890 **"Jerusalem the Golden"**

♫ **Jerusalem the golden, with milk and honey blest—**
the sight of it refreshes the weary and oppressed.
I know not, oh, I know not what joys await us there,
what radiancy of glory, what bliss beyond compare.

They stand, those halls of Zion, all jubilant with song
and bright with many an angel and all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever in them, the daylight is serene;
the pastures of the blessed are ever rich and green.

There is the throne of David, and there, from care released,
the shout of them that triumph, the song of them that feast.
And they who with their leader have conquered in the fight
forever and forever are clad in robes of white.

O sweet and blessed country, the home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country that eager hearts expect!
In mercy, Jesus, bring us to that dear land of rest;
you are with God the Father and Spirit ever blest.

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: # 853 **"I'm But a Stranger Here"**

♫ **I'm but a stranger here, heav'n is my home;**
earth is a desert drear, heav'n is my home;
danger and sorrow stand round me on ev'ry hand;
heav'n is my fatherland, heav'n is my home.

What though the tempest rage, heav'n is my home;
short is my pilgrimage, heav'n is my home;
and time's wild, wintry blast soon shall be overpast;
I shall reach home at last, heav'n is my home.

Therefore I murmur not, heav'n is my home;
whate'er my earthly lot, heav'n is my home;
and I shall surely stand there at my Lord's right hand;
heav'n is my fatherland, heav'n is my home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by the Evers in celebration of Shayleen and Sarah's birthdays.

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, Louise Perry, Phil Schaaf, and Ilene Trevarrow.

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.
Saturday	**LWMS Rally, Crown of Life, Yucaipa, 8:30 a.m.**
Sunday	**Worship, 10:00 a.m.**
	Fellowship Luncheon and Voters 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.

From Luther's Small Catechism © 2019 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org

Joint Reformation Service

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

Sunday, October 25 - 4:00 p.m.

Speaker: MLC Professor Paul Koelpin

www.starlutheran.org