NORTHWESTERN
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"Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

Matthew 22:21b

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PUBLISHING HOUSE

Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

4465 South Blosser Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Phone: 714-474-7023
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, October 18, 2026 10:00 a.m.

Twenty-first Sunday after PENTECOST

Theme of the day: In revealing his saving work for us in Christ, God moves us to obey him and declare his praises before the world. Him making you his people makes you want to and able to act like it.

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: # 716 **"O Christ, Who Called the Twelve"**

♫ **O Christ, who called the Twelve to rise and follow you,**
forsaking old, familiar ways for ventures bold and new:
grant us to hear your call to risk security
and bound in heart and will to you, find perfect liberty.

O Christ, who taught the Twelve the truth for ages sealed,
whose words and works awakened faith,
the ways of God revealed;
instruct us now, we pray, by your empow'ring Word.
True teacher, be for all who seek
their light, their life, their Lord.

O Christ, who sent the Twelve on roads they'd never trod
to serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim the nearer reign of God:
send us on ways where faith transcends timidity,
where love informs and hope sustains both life and ministry.

Please stand for last verse:

O Christ, th'apostles' Lord, the martyrs' strength and song,
the crucified and risen King to whom the saints belong:
though generations pass, our tribute still we bring,
our hymns a sacrifice of praise, our lives an offering.

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, eternal God, in the Word of your apostles and prophets, you have proclaimed to us your saving will. Grant us faith to believe your promises that we may receive eternal salvation; 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: Numbers 27:15-23

15 Moses spoke to the Lord, 16 "May the Lord, the God of the
spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the community, 17 who will go
out before them and come in before them, who will lead them out
and bring them in, so that the community of the Lord will not be
like sheep without a shepherd."
18 The Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in
whom is the Spirit, and place your hand on him. 19 Have him stand
in front of Eleazar the priest and the entire community. You will
commission him in their sight. 20 You will give some of your author-
ity to him so that the entire Israelite community will listen to him.
21 He will stand before Eleazar the priest, who will inquire for him
before the Lord with the decision of the Urim. He and all the Isra-
elites with him, the entire community, will go out at his command
and come in at his command."
22 Moses did just as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua
and had him stand in front of Eleazar the priest and the entire com-
munity. 23 He placed his hands on him and commissioned him, just
as the Lord spoke through Moses.

PSALM of the Day: Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.*
Worship the LORD with gladness;

come before him with joyful songs.*
Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;*
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Refrain

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;*
give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;*
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

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

M: Alleluia. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field. Alleluia. *(Matthew 9:38)*

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: 1 Corinthians 4:1-7

This is the way a person should think of us: as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. [2]In this connection, moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. [3]But it is a trivial matter to me if I am evaluated by you or by a day in a human court. Why, I do not even evaluate myself. [4]I do not in fact know of anything against myself, but I am not justified by this; rather, the one who evaluates me is the Lord. [5]Therefore judge nothing ahead of time, until the Lord comes. He will bring to light whatever is hidden in darkness and also reveal the intentions of hearts. Then there will be praise for each person from God.

[6]Brothers, I turned these things into a lesson using myself and Apollos as examples. I did this for your benefit, so that you may learn from us not to go beyond what is written. Then you will not be arrogant, favoring one person over the other. [7]For who makes you so special? And what do you have that you did not receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

HYMN: # 745 **"Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying"**

♫ **Hark! the voice of Jesus crying, "Who will go and work today?**
Fields are ripe and harvests waiting;
who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the Master calleth; rich reward he offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying,
"Here am I, send me, send me"?

If you cannot speak like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus, you can say he died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked
with the judgment's dread alarms,
you can lead the little children to the Savior's waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman, standing high on Zion's wall,
pointing out the path to heaven, off'ring life and peace to all,
with your prayers and with your off'rings
you can do what God demands;
you can be like faithful Aaron,
holding up the prophet's hands.

Let none hear you idly saying, "There is nothing I can do,"
while the multitudes are dying, and the Master calls for you.
Take the task he gives you gladly,
let his work your pleasure be;
answer quickly when he calleth,
"Here am I, send me, send me!"

SERMON: Matthew 9:35-10:8

[35]Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness.
[36]When he saw the crowds, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were troubled and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd. [37]Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. [38]Therefore pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out workers into his harvest."
10 Jesus called his twelve disciples to himself and gave them authority to drive out unclean spirits and to heal every disease and every sickness. [2]These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee and his brother John; [3]Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; [4]Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.
[5]Jesus sent these twelve out and commanded them, "Do not go among the Gentiles, and do not enter any town of the Samaritans. [6]Go instead to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. [7]As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near!' [8]Heal the sick. Raise the dead. Cleanse lepers. Drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

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: # 638

"The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace"

♫ **The gospel shows the Father's grace,**
who sent his Son to save our race,
proclaims how Jesus lived and died
that we might thus be justified.

It sets the Lamb before our eyes, who made the atoning sacrifice
and calls the souls with guilt oppressed
to come and find eternal rest.

It brings the Savior's righteousness
to robe our souls in royal dress;
from all our guilt it brings release
and gives the troubled conscience peace.

It is the pow'r of God to save from sin and Satan and the grave;
it works the faith which firmly clings
to all the treasures which it brings.

It bears to all the tidings glad
and bids their hearts no more be sad;
the weary, burdened souls it cheers
and banishes their guilty fears.

May we in faith its message learn
nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
may we in faith its truth confess
and praise the Lord, our righteousness.

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!

PRAYER OF THANKS

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.

BENEDICTION

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: # 835 **"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"**

♫ Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near
and the day is almost gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Thursday	**NO Bible Class**
	NO ESL
Sunday	**Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.**
	Worship, 10:00 a.m.

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

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.

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