

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Easter People Proclaim

April 28, 2024



AS WE GATHER

When Jesus uses the image of the vine and speaks of vineyards, He is choosing something very familiar to His hearers. Viticulture is well known around the world. More than eighteen million acres worldwide is used for growing grapes—from Panama to Tajikistan to Zimbabwe! Today, the cultivation of vineyards is still an important agricultural component in both Israel and the Jordan, lands where Jesus walked and taught. Life in the vineyard is vital! As branches grafted to the Vine that is Christ, we are vitalized by His power. As we worship, God's life-supporting power infuses us! It is time to continue growing!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "Come, Thou Almighty King"

Hymnal Page 905

1. Come, Thou almighty King,
Help us Thy Name to sing:
Help us to praise;
Father all-glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

3. Come, holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour!
Thou, who almighty art,
Now rule in ev'ry heart,
And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.

2. Come, Thou incarnate Word,
Gird on Thy mighty sword;
Our prayer attend.
Come and Thy people bless,
And give Thy Word success,
And let Thy righteousness
On us descend.

4. To Thee, great One in Three,
Eternal praises be
Hence evermore!
Thy sov'reign majesty
May we in glory see,
And to eternity
Love and adore.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 66:1–4, 8–9; 40:5

Pastor: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

People: **sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

Pastor: Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!

People: **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name."**

Pastor: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

People: **who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

Pastor: You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!

People: **I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

People: **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 145:1–2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16*

Pastor: A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.

People: **I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.**

Pastor: Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.

People: **The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Pastor: All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, and all Your saints shall bless You!

People: **My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless His holy name forever 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.

Pastor: A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.

KYRIE

Hymnal page 168

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

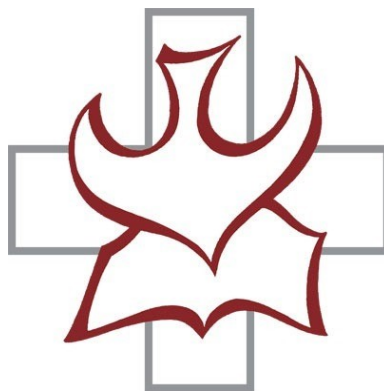
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.



FIRST READING

Acts 8:26–40

(Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep He was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so He opens not His mouth.

³³ In His humiliation justice was denied Him.
Who can describe His generation?
For His life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalm 150*

150 ¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise God in His sanctuary;
praise Him in His mighty heavens!

² Praise Him for His mighty deeds;
praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

³ Praise Him with trumpet sound;
praise Him with lute and harp!

⁴ Praise Him with tambourine and dance;
praise Him with strings and pipe!

⁵ Praise Him with sounding cymbals;
praise Him with loud clashing cymbals!

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD!

EPISTLE *1 John 4:1–11*

(An exhortation to lives of Christian love)

4 ¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 15:1–8*

(Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

15 ¹ “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “God Loves Me Dearly”

Hymnal page 392, verses 1, 2, and 4

1. God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

2. I was in slav'ry,
Sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working
To make me free. [Refrain]

Refrain:

Therefore I'll say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

4. Jesus, my Savior,
Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior,
Paid all I owed. [Refrain]

SERMON – “**Fruit of the Vine**”



CREED

Apostles' Creed

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
From thence 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *LSB, p. 215*

Pastor: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be

crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Take My Life and Let It Be"

Hymnal page 783, verses 1, 4 to 6

1. Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

4. Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6. Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9–13)*

People: **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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN “Life High the Cross” Hymnal page 837, verses 1, and 4 to 6

Refrain:
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

- 1.** Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. [Refrain]

- 4.** O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. [Refrain]

- 5.** Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. [Refrain]

- 6.** So shall our song of triumph ever be;
Praise to the Crucified for victory! [Refrain]

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.
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Pastoral Care:
Please contact –

Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613

BLESSED TO BE SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Pastor Kenneth Frese
Greeter: Sharon Corey
Reader: Christine Geltz
Musician: Christine Geltz
Ushers: Craig Boehne, Donald Lammerts, & Dave Lassanske

PRAYERS OF CARE & CONCERN FOR OUR FLC FAMILY

Philip Caballero: Please pray for his speedy recovery from his several falls and low sodium situation.

Jean Hyland: A long time member suffered a fall and passed away on March 7th, 2024. Please pray for her family during their time of grief and loss. There will be a memorial service planned here on May 18th, 2024 (Saturday) at 11:00 a.m.

Debbie Morrow: This former student from First Lutheran School (who is the niece of Pat Grabowski and Connie Kean) shall be receiving heavy duty chemo treatments for her cancer approximately every three weeks. Please pray for her cancer struggles to be healed.

Anna Rosteck: Pray for our Missionary as she continues to deal with her various cancer issues. (She is Pat Grabowski's and Connie Kean's niece.) In addition, you may send Get Well greeting cards to her at:

709 42ndA Street North, Great Falls MT (Montana) 59405



Sunday Worship at Home

If you are unable to attend worship, you can listen to the Lutheran Hour sermon at 8:00 a.m. on station KBRT AM 740 each Sunday.

If you have a TV and can get DirectTV, Channel 377 you can view Worship Anew at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays. This service is filmed at our Fort Wayne Seminary in Indiana. For those people who have a computer, the Worship Anew worship service can be viewed via the internet at any time.



You may, also, access Sermon online by going to: <https://firstlutherantc.org/Media>

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m.

9:45 a.m.

TODAY – APRIL 28

Fellowship time

Bible Study & Sunday School

WEDNESDAY

12:00 noon

MAY 1

First Wednesday Soup & Sandwich – “Fraud & Cyber” Crime

FRIDAY

8:00 a.m.

MAY 3

Load the Van to Friends In Deed, Pasadena CA

