

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY

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SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Pray Early and Often

July 27, 2025



AS WE GATHER

God's Word instructs us to stay connected to Christ. We experience that connection as we gather to hear God's Word, dine at our Lord's Table, and pray persistent, bold prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, communities, and world. Today we hear Abraham pleading with God on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah. We hear Jesus teaching His disciples to pray. Jesus then illustrates the power of bold, persistent prayer and affirms the goodness of the One who hears our prayers. "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time" (1 Timothy 2:5-6).

✘ 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.

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.

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.

△ 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 50:1, 3–5, 14–15; John 15:7, 16;
Romans 12:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:17–18*

Pastor: Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

People: **The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Our God comes; He does not keep silence; before Him is a devouring fire, around Him a mighty tempest.**

Pastor: Jesus says, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

People: **He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that He may judge His people.**

Pastor: The apostle Paul writes, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

People: **God says, "Gather to Me My faithful ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!"**

Pastor: Jesus said, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you.”

People: **“Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”**

Pastor: Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Most merciful God,

People: **we call upon You because we are troubled by our sins—our sinful thoughts, words, and actions. We are equally troubled by those times when we have failed to act or speak up. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus, who delivered us through His perfect life, death, and resurrection so that we may glorify You with our lives.**

Pastor: Our God hears our prayers for mercy and graciously forgives our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 119:145–149; antiphon: Psalm 50:15*

Pastor: Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

People: **With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O LORD! I will keep Your statutes.**

Pastor: I call to You; save me, that I may observe Your testimonies.

People: **I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in Your words.**

Pastor: My eyes are awake before the watches of the night, that I may meditate on Your promise.

People: **Hear my voice according to Your steadfast love;**

Pastor: O LORD, according to Your justice give me life.

People: **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: Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, 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 the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Hymnal page 770

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, Your grace and mercy have strengthened Your people throughout the ages and emboldened them to come before You in all circumstances. Strengthen our faith and confidence so that we come to You boldly, consistently, and persistently; through Jesus Christ with whom You rule and reign with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 18:17–33

(Abraham prays to God, asking for mercy.)

¹⁷ The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸ seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹ For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has promised him.” ²⁰ Then the LORD said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹ I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to Me. And if not, I will know.” ²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will You then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from You to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” ²⁶ And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.” ²⁷ Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will You destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And He said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” ²⁹ Again he spoke to Him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” ³⁰ Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” ³¹ He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” ³² Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” ³³ And the LORD went His way, when He had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalm 138; antiphon: v. 3*

People: **On the day I called, You answered me; my strength of soul
You increased.**

Reader: I give You thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing
Your praise; I bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your
name for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness, for You have exalted
above all things Your name and Your word.

People: **On the day I called, You answered me; my strength of soul
You increased.**

Reader: All the kings of the earth shall give You thanks, O LORD, for they have
heard the words of Your mouth, and they shall sing of the ways of the
LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

People: **For though the LORD is high, He regards the lowly, but the haughty
He knows from afar.**

Reader: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life; You stretch out
Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand delivers me.

People: **The LORD will fulfill His purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O LORD,
endures forever. Do not forsake the work of Your hands.**

Reader: On the day I called, You answered me; my strength of soul You increased.

EPISTLE *Colossians 2:6–19*

(Stay rooted in Christ to be able to stand firm in your faith.)

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up
in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to
human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to
Christ. ⁹ For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled
in Him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹ In Him also you were circumcised
with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the
circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were
also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from
the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of
your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him. ¹⁶ Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 11:1–13*

(Jesus teaches His disciples to pray.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eleventh chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

11 ¹ Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught His disciples.” ² And He said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread,

⁴ and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.”

⁵ And He said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷ and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? ⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Come, My Soul, with Every Care”

Hymnal page 779, verses 1 to 4

1. Come, my soul, with ev'ry care,
Jesus loves to answer prayer;
He Himself has bid thee pray,
Therefore will not turn away.

2. Thou art coming to a King,
Large petitions with thee bring;
For His grace and pow'r are such
None can ever ask too much.

3. With my burden I begin:
Lord, remove this load of sin;
Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt,
Set my conscience free from guilt.

4. Lord, Thy rest to me impart,
Take possession of my heart;
There Thy blood-bought right maintain
And without a rival reign.

SERMON

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

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, I encourage you to lift your hearts to God and pray with me as Jesus has taught us and promises to hear us.

People: Our Father in heaven,

Pastor: Heavenly Father, mercifully hear the prayers of your people on behalf of our congregation, community, nation, and world.

People: Holy be Your name.

Pastor: Holy Lord, we know Your name is holy. We ask that it be kept holy among us as we bear that name and live as Your people in this world.

People: Your Kingdom come.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we thank You for planting Your Kingdom among us as You nourish us with Your body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. We eagerly anticipate the fullness of Your kingdom coming and ask that You continue to do Your good and gracious work in, through, and among us while we wait for Your return.

People: Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we know that it is Your will that all people come to the knowledge of the truth and are saved. Work Your will here on earth. Work through our governing authorities and their agents to bring Your will to all people.

People: Give us today our daily bread.

Pastor: Loving Father, we thank and praise You for providing everything we need for our bodies and lives. Prevent us from being selfish and greedy. As You generously bless us, lead us to be a blessing to others, especially those who are in need.

People: Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Pastor: O Jesus, forgive and empower us to forgive others so that our relationships are ruled by Your peace. Create clean hearts within us so that we may approach You boldly, with confidence.

People: Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

Pastor: Almighty God, as we face trials and temptations, strengthen us by the power of Your Spirit so we can stand firm against the devil, the world, and our sinful nature. Watch over all we name before You this day. Deliver us from evil now and forever.

People: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “We Praise You, O God”

Hymnal page 785

1. We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.
2. We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o’ertake us, You will not forsake us.
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.
3. With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

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.

1. Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.
2. Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.
3. Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.
4. Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 3.
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Pastoral Care:

Please contact –

Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613

BLESSED TO BE SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Pastor Frank Matthews
Greeter: Norma Boehne
Reader: Christine Geltz
Musician: Christine Geltz
Ushers: Craig Boehne, Donald Lammerts, & Dave Lassanske

PRAYERS OF CARE & CONCERN FOR OUR FLC FAMILY

Texas flood: We pray for the victims' families who must deal with the unexpected grief. Pray for those who are still missing at Camp Mystic, and for those who are still waiting for any news of them. We, also, pray for all the first responders and volunteers as they help search for survivors and navigate destruction.

Tom Grabowski: Pray for a speedy recovery from his recent fall.

Judy Gunther: Pray for the continue healing of her knee as she deals with the pain.



Sunday Worship at Home

Although the Lutheran Hour no longer airs on KBRT 740 AM, you can find other airings at:

lhm.org/guide.

Also, listeners can hear the weekly sermons whenever and wherever they are, and daily devotions are available which come in a daily email to read or listen to. Just go to:

<https://familytalktoday.com/programguidedaily>.

Or you can listen to Lutheran Hour podcasts any time by going to:

<https://www.youtube.com/@LutheranHourMin>.

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.

You may also access or review the sermons online by going to:

<https://firstlutherantc.org/Media>

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m.

9:45 a.m.

TODAY – JULY 27

Fellowship time

Bible Study and Sunday School

FRIDAY

8:00 a.m.

AUGUST 1

Load the Van to Friends In Deed at Pasadena, CA

Special Announcement

Due to circumstances beyond the churches control, the worship service on August 10th, 2025 – Sunday – will be held in the Fellowship Room (no sound engineer with only 1 Usher).