

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY

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Website: <https://firstlutherantc.org>

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/flctc

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Everyone Is Looking for You

February 4, 2024



AS WE GATHER

Living at a time when it seems the Church is under attack, we might long for a time when everyone was looking for Jesus. Whether they know or realize it, the world is looking for Jesus, that is, for an answer to sin, fear, loneliness, pain, and death. Jesus is that answer. For this reason, our Lord had to continue to preach at the next town and the next. For this reason, we continue to proclaim the unchanging Gospel year in and year out, for it is the only Gospel by which any can be saved. May the Lord grant us zeal for His house and His kingdom!

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S HOUSE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper in our worship service today. In 1 Corinthians Chapter Ten, Paul writes about the Lord's Supper saying, "The bread that we break, isn't it a participation in the body of Christ? The cup that we bless, isn't it a participation in the blood of Christ?" That's why we believe, teach, and confess that Christ is truly present as we receive the bread and the wine. In this Supper we are participating in the true body and blood of Jesus in a real yet mysterious way and by faith we receive Him in the bread and wine. Therefore, we ask all who commune, including our own members, to examine themselves before reception:

- + I am a baptized believer in Jesus Christ.
- + I believe that, because of my sin, I am not adequate to make myself acceptable to God.
- + I believe that God forgives and accepts me by His grace through Jesus Christ who died for my sins.
- + I believe that in this Sacrament of the Lord's Supper the risen Christ comes to me in, with and under the bread and wine, assuring me of the forgiveness of my sins.
- + I want to receive this Sacrament today to renew my baptismal relationship with Jesus Christ, and to rededicate my life in Christian faith, hope and love.



✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "O Jesus, King Most Wonderful" Hymnal page 554, verses 1 to 4

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. O Jesus, King most wonderful!
O Conqueror renowned!
O Source of peace ineffable,
In whom all joys are found:</p> <p>2. When once You visit darkened hearts,
Then truth begins to shine,
Then earthly vanity departs,
Then kindles love divine.</p> | <p>3. O Jesus, light of all below,
The fount of life and fire,
Surpassing all the joys we know,
All that we can desire:</p> <p>4. May ev'ry heart confess Your name,
Forever You adore,
And, seeking You, itself inflame
To seek You more and more!</p> |
|--|---|

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 13:5; 147:6*

Pastor: I have trusted in Your steadfast love;

People: **my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.**

Pastor: The LORD lifts up the humble;

People: **He casts the wicked to the ground.**

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

✘ WORD ✘

INTROIT *Psalm 13:3–5; antiphon: v. 6*

Pastor: I will sing to the LORD,
People: because He has dealt bountifully with me.

Pastor: Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;
People: light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

Pastor: lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed over him,”

People: lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

Pastor: But I have trusted in Your steadfast love;
People: my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

**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: I will sing to the Lord,
because He has dealt bountifully with 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”

Verses 1 and 2

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals He's waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

Come home, come home,
You who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home!

2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies,
Mercies for you and for me?

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAY

Pastor: Today is the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany of our Lord, in the season of Christ's self-revelation through word and works. Today we hear the promise of the prophet who promises strength and healing. The Epistle speaks of the love strong enough to serve and finish the race. In the Gospel, Jesus continues to heal the sick and bring the Kingdom to them.

(He brings us out and calls us by name.)

- ²¹ Do you not know? Do you not hear?
 Has it not been told you from the beginning?
 Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- ²² It is He who sits above the circle of the earth,
 and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
 who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
 and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;
- ²³ who brings princes to nothing,
 and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.
- ²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
 scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
 when He blows on them, and they wither,
 and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- ²⁵ To whom then will you compare Me,
 that I should be like him? says the Holy One.
- ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:
 who created these?
 He who brings out their host by number,
 calling them all by name;
 by the greatness of His might
 and because He is strong in power,
 not one is missing.
- ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
 and speak, O Israel,
 “My way is hidden from the LORD,
 and my right is disregarded by my God”?
- ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
 The LORD is the Everlasting God,
 the Creator of the ends of the earth.
 He does not faint or grow weary;
 His understanding is unsearchable.
- ²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
 and to him who has no might He increases strength.
- ³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary,
 and young men shall fall exhausted;
- ³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
 they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
 they shall run and not be weary;
 they shall walk and not faint.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 147:1–11; antiphon: v. 5

(He heals the broken and binds up their wounds.)

147 ¹ Praise the LORD!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

² The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
He gathers the outcasts of Israel.

³ He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

⁴ He determines the number of the stars;
He gives to all of them their names.

⁵ Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
His understanding is beyond measure.

⁶ The LORD lifts up the humble;
He casts the wicked to the ground.

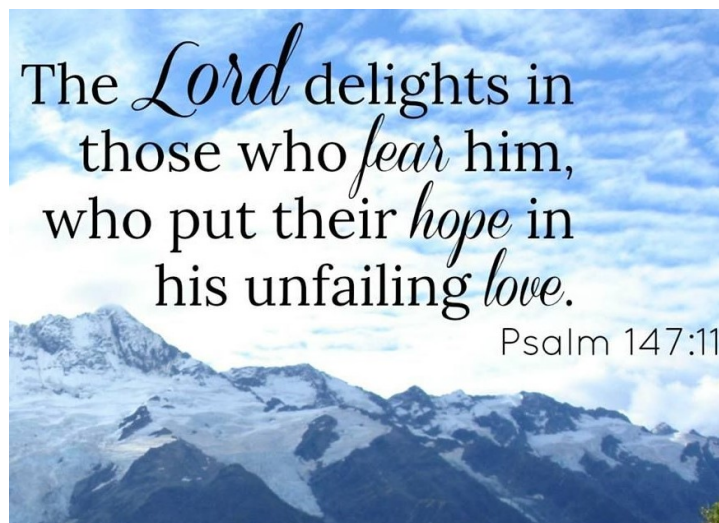
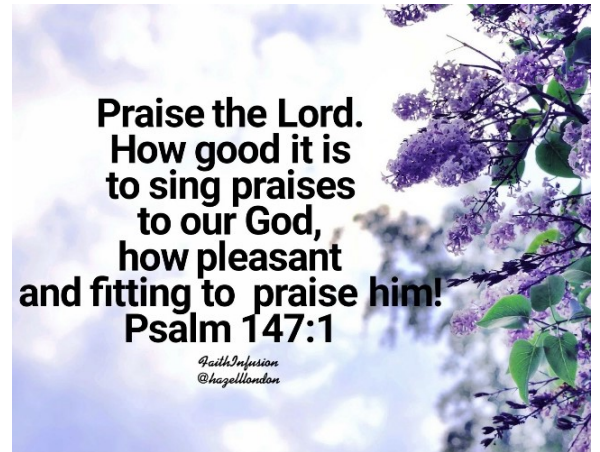
⁷ Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre!

⁸ He covers the heavens with clouds;
He prepares rain for the earth;
He makes grass grow on the hills.

⁹ He gives to the beasts their food,
and to the young ravens that cry.

¹⁰ His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor His pleasure in the legs of a man,

¹¹ but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,
in those who hope in His steadfast love.



EPISTLE

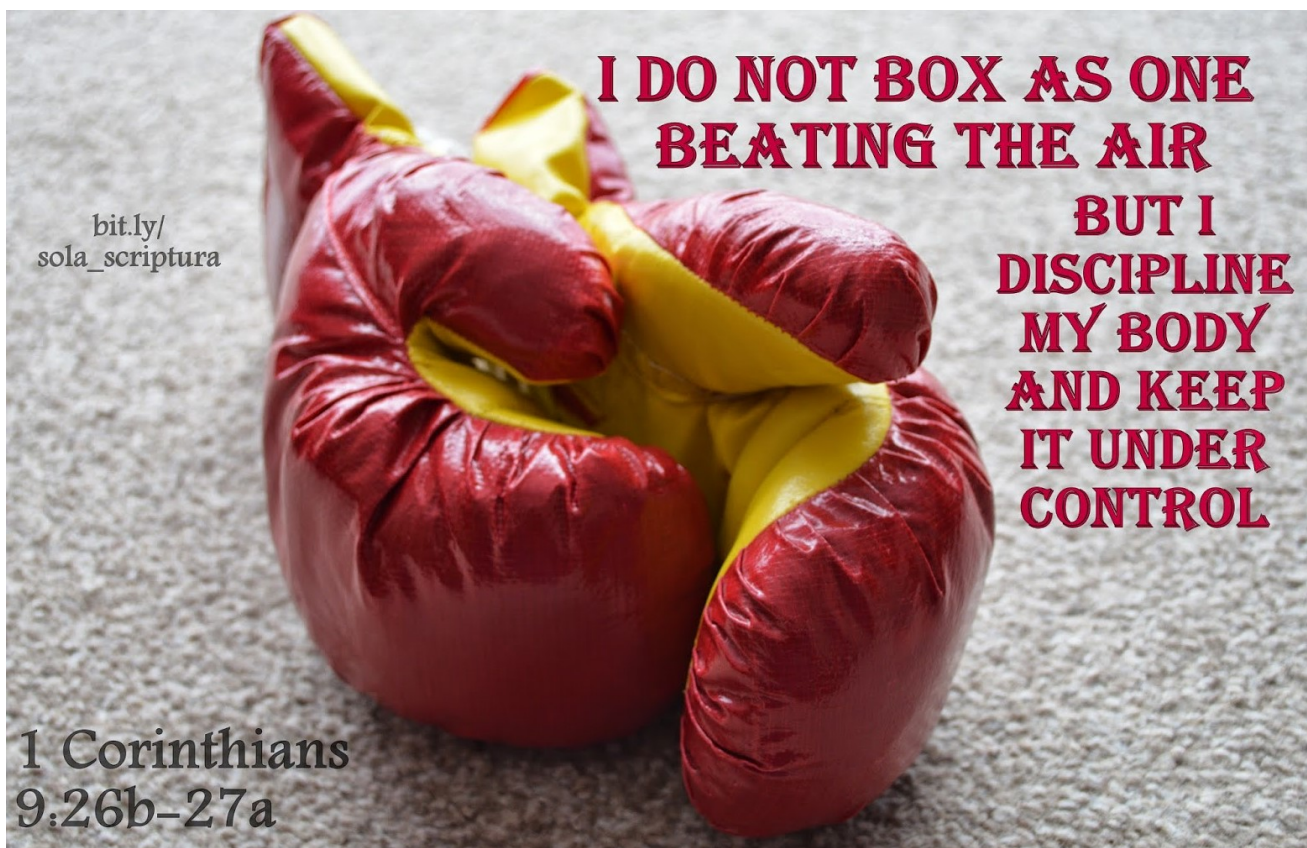
1 Corinthians 9:16–27

(I do it all for the sake of the Gospel.)

¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. ¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the Law I became as one under the Law (though not being myself under the Law) that I might win those under the Law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. ²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 1:29–39*

(Everyone was looking for Jesus.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

²⁹ And immediately He left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told Him about her. ³¹ And He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³² That evening at sundown they brought to Him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ And He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And He would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew Him. ³⁵ And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him, ³⁷ and they found Him and said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." ³⁸ And He said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." ³⁹ And He went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY "Amazing Grace" Hymnal page 744, verses 1 to 4

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Amazing grace— how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!</p> | <p>3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.</p> |
| <p>2. The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.</p> | <p>4. Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.</p> |

SERMON

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both
the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is
worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God of mercy, You showed Your great love for us by sending Your Son to save and redeem us. Give to Your Church courage to proclaim with boldness this Gospel to all people by all means. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God of power, You hold all things in Your hand. Raise up good and honest leaders who will defend our liberty and inspire our service, following the wisdom of Your Word in the cause of justice and peace.
Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God of unity, by Your Spirit, You join us together in Holy Baptism, gather us as one for Holy Communion, and build up our faith by the power of the Spirit. Strengthen the unity of the Church in doctrine and practice. Raise up faithful pastors and church workers to build us up in this holy faith.
Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God of healing, You give strength to the weak and sustain the weary in the time of trouble. Deliver the sick by Your grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God of peace, You give hope to the weary and comfort to those troubled in mind. Give hope to those who despair, comfort to those in pain, and courage to those who grow faint, that we may finish the race and receive the crown of everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God of grace, You give us a place at the Table of Your Son and the gift of this communion in His body and blood. Help us to receive with faith this Holy Sacrament that we may also receive all the fruits of His life, death, and resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God of truth, You have given us life that we may treasure Your mercy and manifest in words and deeds Your goodness and love to the world. With our songs of praise, accept the tithes and offerings we bring with our gratitude and praise. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Additional petitions may be inserted here.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, with confidence in Your mercy we come before You with the prayers and petitions of Your Church, praying You to provide for us all things as are good, wholesome, and beneficial and to keep from us all things as are harmful, that we may be preserved from evil and kept to everlasting life through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Just as I Am, without One Plea”

Hymnal page 570, verses 5 and 6

5. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6. Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Hymnal page 178

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: 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.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Hymnal page 180

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: 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.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “Thy Strong Word” Hymnal page 578, verses 1 and 6

1. Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee,
While Thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

△ **6.** God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee land and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortal, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.
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Pastoral Care:

Please contact –

Pastor Scott Ganas at: (951) 795-8162, or
 Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613

BLESSED TO BE SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Pastor Scott Ganas
Greeter: Connie Kean
Reader: Richard Swanson
Musician: Christine Geltz
Ushers: Craig Boehne, Donald Lammerts, & Dave Lassanske



PRAYERS OF CARE & CONCERN FOR OUR FLC FAMILY

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 Pastor Scott's sermon online by going to:

<https://firstlutherantc.org/Media>



Annual Voters' Meeting

The annual meeting of the Voters' Assembly will be today at 11:00 a.m. after the weekly Adult Bible Study. Lunch shall be provided. One of the items on the agenda shall be the Budget for 2024.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m.
9:45 a.m.
11:00 a.m.

TODAY – FEBRUARY 4

Fellowship time
Bible Study and Sunday School
Annual Voters' meeting

The Senior Group, previously called the Major Leaguers is cancelled until further notice.

Saturday Prayer Group, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. This group is, currently, meeting via the telephone. Let Jo Tschopp know if you want to participate.

