

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY**

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Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/fltc](http://www.facebook.com/fltc)

**REFORMATION SUNDAY – OBSERVED**

True Freedom

October 26, 2025



**AS WE GATHER**

We are blessed with many freedoms in this country as we observed Reformation Sunday today that will be on October 31, 2025. We have freedom of speech. We have freedom of religion, with the freedom to assemble. We live in the “land of the free and the home of the brave.” It is easy to rely on our citizenship for proof of our freedom. In that way, we are like the Jewish people at the time of Jesus. They relied on their Abrahamic lineage for freedom, recalling the covenant God made with Abraham and his descendants. While these national freedoms are great blessings, in the Holy Gospel, Jesus points out that for true freedom, one must be free from slavery to sin. Only in Christ is anyone truly free.

## ✖ PREPARATION ✖

### HYMN    "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Hymnal page 656

1. A mighty fortress is our God,  
A trusty shield and weapon;  
He helps us free from ev'ry need  
That hath us now o'ertaken.  
The old evil foe  
Now means deadly woe;  
Deep guile and great might  
Are his dread arms in fight;  
On earth is not his equal.

2. With might of ours can naught be done,  
Soon were our loss effected;  
But for us fights the valiant One,  
Whom God Himself elected.  
Ask ye, Who is this?  
Jesus Christ it is,  
Of Sabbath Lord,  
And there's none other God;  
He holds the field forever.

3. Though devils all the world should fill,  
All eager to devour us.  
We tremble not, we fear no ill;  
They shall not overpow'r us.  
This world's prince may still  
Scowl fierce as he will,  
He can harm us none.  
He's judged; the deed is done;  
One little word can fell him.

4. The Word they still shall let remain  
Nor any thanks have for it;  
He's by our side upon the plain  
With His good gifts and Spirit.  
And take they our life,  
Goods, fame, child, and wife,  
Though these all be gone,  
Our vict'ry has been won;  
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

### INVOCATION

Pastor:    In the name of the Father and of the ✖ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People:    Amen.

### OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 46:1, 7, 10–11*

Pastor:    God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
People:    **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**  
Pastor:    "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations,  
              I will be exalted in the earth!"  
People:    **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

## CONFSSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Isaiah 35:10*

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

**People:** **Almighty God, You are our mighty fortress. We resist this reality when we live according to the so-called wisdom of the world. We resist the reality that, in Christ, we are free indeed when we use our law-keeping as a measure of our standing with You. We resist the reality that You are with us when we celebrate Your works as our own. Still our selfish nature and forgive our sins for Jesus' sake. Gladden our hearts and set us free.**

Pastor: The prophet Isaiah reminds us, "The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." This is our reality as Jesus forgives us and sets us free. As a called and ordained 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.

**People:** **Amen.**

## ✖ WORD ✎

### INTROIT *Psalm 34:1–2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 119:46*

Pastor: I will speak of Your testimonies before kings, O Lord, and shall not be put to shame.

**People:** **I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

Pastor: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

**People:** **Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.**

Pastor: The LORD redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

**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 speak of Your testimonies before kings, O Lord, and shall not be put to shame.

## 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

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Hymnal page 803

1. Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,  
Praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
Drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.

2. All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

△ 3. Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,  
Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Fountainhead of love divine:  
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit!  
Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God of glory, we worship You who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water. We worship You who freely forgives us through the propitiation of Jesus' blood, which justifies us freely by Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

People: **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Revelation 14:6–7*

(Fear God and worship Him.)

<sup>6</sup> Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. <sup>7</sup> And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM *Psalm 46*

**46** <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way,  
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

<sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

<sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;  
God will help her when morning dawns.

<sup>6</sup> The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;  
He utters His voice, the earth melts.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

<sup>8</sup> Come, behold the works of the LORD,  
how He has brought desolations on the earth.

<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
He burns the chariots with fire.

<sup>10</sup> "Be still, and know that I am God.  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!"

<sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

## EPISTLE

*Romans 3:19–28*

(All have sinned and are freely justified by God's grace.)

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup> For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. <sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. <sup>27</sup> Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 8:31–36*

(It is only through Jesus that we become free.)

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

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

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” <sup>33</sup> They answered Him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## HYMN OF THE DAY “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” Hymnal page 655

1. Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;  
Curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son  
And bring to naught all He has done.

2. Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,  
For You are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend Your holy Church that we  
May sing your praise eternally.

3. O Comforter of priceless worth,  
Send peace and unity on earth;  
Support us in our final strife  
And lead us out of death to life.

## CHILDREN / YOUTHFUL MINISTRY MOMENT

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

O Lord of hosts, we give You glory and thanks for being our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, especially on this Reformation festival. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Thank You for the gift of Your grace that alone sets us free through the blood of Your Son, Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Faithful and forgiving God, thank You for bringing us to faith in You. It is through this faith alone that we are saved. Grow us in Your grace and guide us by Your Spirit in living our faith daily. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Word who became flesh and dwelt among us, You have given us the Word of Life. Strengthen us by Your Word. Lead and guide us by Your truth. Give Your church on earth faithful pastors who preach and teach the Gospel in all its purity. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, You are the One who sets us free. In You alone our hope is found. You are our strength and our refuge. Remember all who face adversity of any kind. Comfort, strengthen, and heal them by Your Holy Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Preserve Your church, O Lord, and each of us as members of Christ's Body, that we may not surrender the true Gospel for any reason but be kept in this faith and fear throughout the days of our earthly pilgrimage, until that day when we and all Your people shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the reward You have prepared for us and all who have loved His appearing. To You alone be all glory, now and forever, for You rule and reign as one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

Hymnal page 781, verses 1 and 2

1. We give Thee but Thine own,  
Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

2. May we Thy bounties thus  
As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,  
To Thee our first-fruits give!

## 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

*Psalm 46:1, 7, 10–11; Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
**People:** The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.  
Pastor: “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will  
be exalted in the earth!”  
**People:** The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.  
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

“Fight the Good Fight”

Hymnal page 664, verses 1 and 3

1. 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.

3. Cast care aside, lean on your guide;  
His boundless mercy will provide.  
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove  
Christ is your life and Christ your love.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 4.

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## Pastoral Care:

Please contact –

Pastor Frank Matthews at: (213) 247-8838 or [no1redder@gmail.com](mailto:no1redder@gmail.com)

## BLESSED TO BE SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Pastor Frank Matthews

Greeter: Norma Boehne

Reader: Christine Geltz

Musician: Christine Geltz

Ushers: Donald Lammerts, Dave Lassanke, and Craig Boehne

## PRAYERS OF CARE & CONCERN FOR OUR FLC FAMILY

Judy Gunther: Please pray for Judy Gunther who has experienced a heart attack and is in the hospital. Judy currently is chairman of First Lutheran's Board of Directors. Pray that she experiences God's comfort, peace, and healing. Pray for guidance for her family and friends as they come to assist her. Pray for guidance, compassion, and medical expertise for the medical team that is working with Judy; pray that she will soon be able to return home and resume her activities.

Nancy Poser: Continuing prayers for Nancy and her family during their time of grief with the recent passing of her husband, Walter Poser. (Please refer to the next page for more info about Walter's Memorial Service.)

Rachel Whitcher: Continuing prayers of healing from her broken wrist after the surgery.

Debbie Morrow: Prayers for the niece of Tom and Pat Grabowski as she continues to receive chemotherapy at the City of Hope.

Sandy Sussman: Continuing prayers of healing for this niece of former members Bruce and Lynn Bertram.

Perry Singleton, Jan, and Keith Edmunds: More prayers for Pastor Frank Matthews' friends and cousin as they continue deal with many health issues.

Patricia Caballero: Continuing prayers of healing after her recent surgery. We give praises to our Lord that she is healing nicely.

Betty Nelson: Pray for this shut-in member as she continues to deal with the challenges of aging. Pray that she would be comforted knowing God is with her and caring for her. Pray for her family and caregivers as they minister to her.

Gregg Ruiz: Prayer for Tom's younger brother who is fighting for his life against cancer. Pray also for Penny's strength as she supports Gregg in his serious illness.

## MEMORIAL FOR WALTER POSER

There will be a service for Walter Poser at First Lutheran Church in Monrovia, CA on **November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025** – Saturday at 11:00 a.m. with a luncheon reception afterwards.

**Please call the telephone number listed below to RSVP for the luncheon.**

The church address is: 1323 S. Magnolia Ave., Monrovia CA 91016.

The church telephone number is: (626) 357-3543, extension 1.

From the Monrovia Church: “It is with deep sadness that we extend our heartfelt sympathy to **Nancy Poser** who lost her beloved husband, **Walter**, on October 7<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday. Walter will be remembered as a man of quiet strength, always well-dressed, respectful, and deeply committed to his faith. We continue to lift up Nancy and her family in our prayers as they prepare to celebrate Walter’s life and legacy.”



### Sunday Worship at Home

Although the Lutheran Hour no longer airs on KBRT 740 AM, you can find other airings at: [lhm.org/guide](http://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 – OCTOBER 26**

Fellowship time  
Bible Study and Sunday School

### **FRIDAY**

6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

### **OCTOBER 31**

Trunk and Treat  
(Please refer to the next page for more information)

## **Trunk and Treat**

Halloween Trunk & Treat has become a fun activity for members and friends of the congregation. The festivities begin on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 – Friday at 6:00 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m. All you need to do is purchase some treats, decorate your trunk and wait for the children and families to come. Jo Tschopp has access to trunk decorations, so ask her if you are interested. We know that some people have never been inside a Christian church so we open the church and encourage people to visit and view the beautiful stained-glass windows. Please consider volunteering for this neighborhood outreach.

