

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY

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FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Prepare the Way of the Lord

November 30, 2025



AS WE GATHER

Today is not only the First Sunday in Advent but also the commemoration of St. Andrew, whose day governs the start of Advent. In this way, Andrew continues to point to Christ as we begin a new Church Year. How odd it is, then, that the Gospel for the First Sunday in Advent is the same as the Gospel for Palm Sunday! This reminds us that Jesus came for the cross and empty tomb, and this is the only Gospel that can save us from sin and death. The cry of Advent is “prepare the way of the Lord.” We will echo the words of John the Baptist, heralding Christ’s coming. We will join in the chant of the crowd: “Hosanna to the Son of David!” (Matthew 21:9). We will hear Him speak to us through the voice of His Word. We will feast upon His flesh for the life of the world and His blood that cleanses us from all sin. In all our preparations, we acclaim Him as Lord and receive Him and all His benefits.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Romans 13:12; Philippians 1:6

Pastor: The night is far gone; the day is at hand.

People: **So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.**

Silence for self-examination.

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

People: **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of 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.**

Pastor: He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

The Advent wreath is lit with the other candles as the hymn is sung.

HYMN “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” Hymnal page 341, verses 1 and 5

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.

5. Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

KYRIE

Pastor: Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

People: Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

Pastor: For peace in our hearts, for peace in the church, and for peace in the world, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

Pastor: For mercy to forgive all our sins, for mercy to forgive the sins of one another, and for mercy for all those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

Pastor: For grace to rule our unruly wills, for grace to prepare to receive the Lord in His Word and Supper, and for grace to be found faithful when He comes at the end of all time, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

Pastor: For hope to preserve us from despair, for hope to bear cheerful witness to Christ before the world, and for hope to sustain us in the hour of trial, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 2:1–5

(“Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.”)

2 ¹ The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,

³ and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that He may teach us His ways
and that we may walk in His paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalm 122; antiphon: v. 6*

122 ¹ I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

² Our feet have been standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem!

³ Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together,

⁴ to which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

⁵ There thrones for judgment were set,
the thrones of the house of David.
⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
“May they be secure who love you!
⁷ Peace be within your walls
and security within your towers!”
⁸ For my brothers and companions' sake
I will say, “Peace be within you!”
⁹ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek Your good.

EPISTLE *Romans 13:11–14*

(“Put on the armor of light.”)

¹¹ Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 24:36–44*

(The Son of Man is coming when you least expect Him.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁶ “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Hymnal page 332, verses 1 and 2

1. Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

2. Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring pure and fresh.

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 on behalf of the world, those with special need, and for all the faithful.

Silence for prayer and meditation.

Pastor: That we may depart from the ways of the wicked and manifest in word and deed our faith in His Word and our delight in His will, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we may resist the temptation to despair in time of trouble and manifest a joyful heart and hope in all circumstances of this mortal life, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we may enjoy the gift of good government, wise and faithful leaders, and peace among the nations, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That those who suffer in any want or need—the sick, grieving, and those troubled in mind or soul—may be granted healing and comfort, and that all may be preserved in faith and holiness to the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Additional petitions may be inserted here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”

Hymnal page 350, verses 3 and 4

3. My hosannas and my palms
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can,
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace,
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

4. Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

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

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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 “Once He Came in Blessing”

Hymnal page 333

1. Once He came in blessing,
All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us;
Hope and freedom gave us.

2. Now He gently leads us;
With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven,
Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish
Souls that they may flourish.

3. Soon will come that hour
When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor
And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing
Joy beyond comparing.

4. Come, then, O Lord Jesus,
From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing,
That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You
Till in heav'n we bless You.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.

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Scripture quotations are from the ESV Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version)

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Pastoral Care:

Please contact –

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

BLESSED TO BE SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Pastor Frank Matthews

Greeter: Sharon Corey

Reader: Jo Tschopp

Musician: Christine Geltz

Ushers: Donald Lammerts, Dave Lassanke, and Craig Boehne

PRAYERS OF CARE & CONCERN FOR OUR FLC FAMILY

Pastor Scott Ganas: Please pray for Monica and her family of their unexpected loss, and the dealing with their grief, especially during this time of the year.

Judy Gunther: Please continue to pray for her as she is recovering nicely.

Bob Lujan: Prayer for Christine Geltz's friend as he is dealing with many health issues.

Rachel Whitcher: Please continue to extend healing prayers for her wrist as she is recovering slowly.

Sandy Sussman: Continuing prayers of healing for this niece of former members Bruce and Lynn Bertram, who is waiting to be called home into glory.

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: We give praise and thanksgiving that she has healed nicely.

Betty Nelson: Pray for this shut-in member as she continues to deal with the challenges of aging.

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.

Christians around the world: Pray for their safety and their stronghold in their faith as they combat all the evilness targeted against them, especially in many parts of Africa and China.

Visitors at the Thanksgiving Eve Service

Thank you to the many visitors who came and attended our midday service. We were, especially, thankful to see Faith Lersey who came by with all her children! Thank you also to Vicki Trepanier for providing the desserts after the service, as well.



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 – NOVEMBER 30

Fellowship time

Bible Study and Sunday School

TUESDAY

10:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 2

Mission Development Team Meeting

WEDNESDAY

12:00 noon

DECEMBER 3

First Wednesday Soup and Sandwich luncheon

FRIDAY

8:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 5

Load the Van to Friends In Deed, Pasadena CA

SATURDAY

8:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 6

Volunteers at Friends In Deed, Pasadena CA