FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY

9123 Broadway, Temple City, CA 91780

Church Office: (626) 287-0968, Fax: (626) 285-8648

Website: https://firstlutherantc.org
Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/flctc

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Your Redemption is Near

November 16, 2025



AS WE GATHER

One of the great mysteries of the Christian faith can be summed up in the word "near." "Near" can indicate something that is almost here but hasn't yet arrived. And at the same time, "near" can point to something already with us, like those "near and dear" to our hearts. The word "near" resounds with feelings of the here and now and the not quite yet. Today in worship, Your Savior, Jesus, is near! He is present in the here and now, delivering grace upon grace. And He is on His way, bringing the fullness of His freedom. Praise the God who comes near in Jesus Christ, our Lord!

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 "Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray"

Hymnal page 663, verses 1 to 3 and 5

1. Rise, my soul, to watch and pray;

From your sleep awaken! Be not by the evil day Unawares o'ertaken;

For the foe, Well we know,

Is a harvest reaping

While the saints are sleeping.

2. Watch against the devil's snares

Lest asleep he find you;

For indeed no pains he spares

To deceive and blind you.

Satan's prey Oft are they

Who secure are sleeping And no watch are keeping.

3. Watch! Let not the wicked world

With its lies defeat you

Lest with bold deceptions hurled

It betray and cheat you.

Watch and see Lest there be

Faithless friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.

5. But while watching, also pray

To the Lord unceasing.

God protects you day by day, Strength and faith increasing,

So that still Mind and will

Shall unite to serve Him And forever love Him.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Job 19:25a; Psalm 107:2a; Exodus 15:13; Psalm 118:24

Pastor: For I know that my Redeemer lives.

People: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so.

Pastor: You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You have redeemed;

People: You have guided them by Your strength to Your holy abode.

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made;

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Colossians 1:13-14

Pastor: The Lord has delivered us from the domain of darkness

People: and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we

have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Pastor: Almighty God and Father,

People: we confess, as Your people, our sinful human nature and the

thoughts, words, and actions that are evil in Your sight. We need Your rescue. We need Your righteousness. We need a Redeemer. Mercifully draw near to us, O Lord. For the sake of Jesus Christ and His cross, rescue us from our troubles and cover our sin with true righteousness. Redeem our lives, that our days and deeds would be

directed in Your peace. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and

for His sake forgives You all Your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh 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 55:1–2, 16–18, 22

Pastor: Give ear to my prayer, O God,

People: and hide not Yourself from my plea for mercy!

Pastor: Attend to me, and answer me;

People: I am restless in my complaint and I moan,

Pastor: But I call to God,

People: and the LORD will save me.

Pastor: Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan,

People: and He hears my voice.

Pastor: He redeems my soul in safety from the battle that I wage,

People: for many are arrayed against me.

Pastor: Cast your burden on the LORD, and He will sustain you;

People: He will never permit the righteous to be moved.

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.

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 "How Great Thou Art" Hymnal 801

1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder Consider all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

- 2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander, I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; [Refrain]
- **3.** But when I think that God, His Son not sparing, Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—
 That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
 He bled and died to take away my sin; [Refrain]
- **4.** When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" [Refrain]

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,

now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Malachi 4:1-6

(The Lord prepares His people to meet the sun of righteousness.)

4 ¹ "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts. ⁴ "Remember the Law of My servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵ "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 98; antiphon: v. 9b

98 ¹ Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

- ² The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- ³ He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

- ⁴ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
- ⁵ Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!
- ⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!
- ⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!
- ⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills sing for joy together
- ⁹ before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

EPISTLE 2 Thessalonians 3:6–13

(Paul commends believers to dedicate themselves to honorable work and doing good.)

⁶ Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹² Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 21:5–28

(Seeking a sign, Jesus offers His hearers assurance that amid disaster, their redemption is drawing near.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁵ And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, [Jesus] said, 6 "As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." ⁷ And they asked Him, "Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?" 8 And He said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. ⁹ And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once." 10 Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11 There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. ¹² But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for My name's sake. ¹³ This will be your opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴ Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all for My name's sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your lives.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

Hymnal page 821, verses 1 to 4

1. Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
Has redeemed us by His blood."

2. Alleluia! Not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us;
Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received Him
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget His promise:
"I am with you evermore"?

- 3. Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
 Here on earth our food, our stay;
 Alleluia! Here the sinful
 Flee to You from day to day.
 Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
 Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
 Where the songs of all the sinless
 Sweep across the crystal sea.
- 4. Alleluia! King eternal,
 Lord omnipotent we own;
 Alleluia! Born of Mary,
 Earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne.
 As within the veil You entered,
 Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
 Here on earth both priest and victim
 In the eucharistic feast.

CHILDREN / YOUTHFUL MINISTRY MOMENT

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: Redeemed in the Lord, we go to our God with our thanks, praise, and

petitions, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Before Your throne, O Lord, we have an advocate: Jesus Christ, the

Righteous. Grant to us the perfect peace of knowing He pleads for us and

for our world.

People: Hear us and be near us, O Lord.

Pastor: Your Word, O Lord, is firmly fixed in the heavens. Teach us to turn to

Your Word, trusting that by it You deliver us from danger and surround us

with salvation.

People: Hear us and be near us, O Lord.

Pastor: You are faithful, O Lord, yet we are prone to wander. Pursue the weak,

the worried, and the worldly, and bring them home to Your heart of love.

People: Hear us and be near us, O Lord.

Pastor: In times of trial, O Lord, You promise Your unfailing presence. Strengthen

the sick and suffering. Supply them with support of both body and soul.

People: Hear us and be near us, O Lord.

Pastor: Your blessings abound, O Lord, yet we often fear scarcity and covet what

others have. Give us contentment with the daily bread that comes from

Your fatherly hand.

People: Hear us and be near us, O Lord.

Pastor: Insufficient are our prayers, O Lord, and so we rest in the intercession of

the Spirit, the supplication of Your risen Son, and Your fatherly goodness, trusting that near to us, You see our truest needs and You will grant to us those petitions that are beneficial to our faith in Christ and our vocations in which You call us. We place these prayers into Your hands in the name of

our Redeemer, Jesus.

People: Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "We Praise You, O God" Hymnal page 785, verses 1 and 3

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.

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!

₩ 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 worthy, proper, and beneficial that we would give thanks to You in

every time and place, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who bought our redemption through His sinless obedience and innocent suffering and death. Shedding blood more priceless that gold, Christ won for us pardon and peace, and now lives and rules at Your right hand, that He might intercede for those He has purchased from sin, death, and Satan's power. As we eagerly await His returning, gather our hearts and voices with all the redeemed, that along

with angels and archangels we may bless and magnify Your glorious name,

evermore praising You and singing:

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 God of all creation, for You have displayed

Your power and Your provision in the merciful sending of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We praise You that He wore our flesh and bore our sins, and that He invites us to His Table to share in the fruits of His victory. Gather us in faith to receive the true body and blood of our Savior, Jesus, as those in need of His redemption. Give us hearts that overflow with gratitude and yearn for the nearness of our Redeemer, who died, who is risen, and who is coming again, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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.

Lord Jesus Christ, as You have enlivened our hearts through Your Holy Supper, keep us ever alert and awake, ready to meet You and rejoice in Your drawing near. By Your grace, allow us to stand in Your truth and lift our heads in firm faith, that free from fear, we would witness to Your redeeming love for us and for the world, for You live and reign with the

Father and the 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.

HYMN "I'm But a Stranger Here" Hymnal page 748

1. I'm but a stranger here, Heav'n is my home; Earth is a desert drear, Heav'n is my home. Danger and sorrow stand Round me on ev'ry hand; Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home. 2. What though the tempest rage, Heav'n is my home; Short is my pilgrimage, Heav'n is my home; And time's wild wintry blast Soon shall be overpast; I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.

3. Therefore I murmur not,
Heav'n is my home;
Whate'er my earthly lot,
Heav'n is my home;
And I shall surely stand
There at my Lord's right hand;
Heav'n is my fatherland,
Heav'n is my home.

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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: Reverend Frank Matthews

Greeter: Sharon Corey
Reader: Richard Swanson
Musician: Christine Geltz

Ushers: Craig Boehne, Donald Lammerts, & Dave Lassanske

PRAYERS OF CARE & CONCERN FOR OUR FLC FAMILY

<u>Tschopp family</u>: Please pray for Oscar Tschopp's family during their time of grief.

<u>Judy Gunther</u>: Praise to our Lord that she has returned home and is resting nicely. Please continue to pray for Judy.

Dennis: Prayer for Peter Dille's friend.

<u>Nancy Poser</u>: Continuing prayers for Nancy and her family during their time of grief with the passing of her husband, Walter Poser.

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

<u>Debbie Morrow</u>: Continuing prayers for the niece of Tom and Pat Grabowski as she continues to receive chemotherapy at the City of Hope.

<u>Sandy Sussman</u>: Continuing prayers of healing for this niece of former members, Bruce and Lynn Bertram.

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

Betty Nelson: Continuing prayer for this shut-in member as she deals with her aging.

<u>Gregg Ruiz</u>: 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.





Sunday Worship at Home

Although the Lutheran Hour no longer airs on KBRT 740 AM, you can find other airings at: https://linear.com/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 TODAY – NOVEMBER 16

9:30 a.m. Fellowship time

9:45 a.m. Bible Study & Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Board of Directors meeting

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18

10:30 a.m. Mission Development Team meeting



WEDNESDAY 12:00 noon **NOVEMBER 26**Thanksgiving Eve

Midday service