

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY

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

Website: <https://firstlutherantc.org>

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/flctc

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Easter People Follow

April 21, 2024



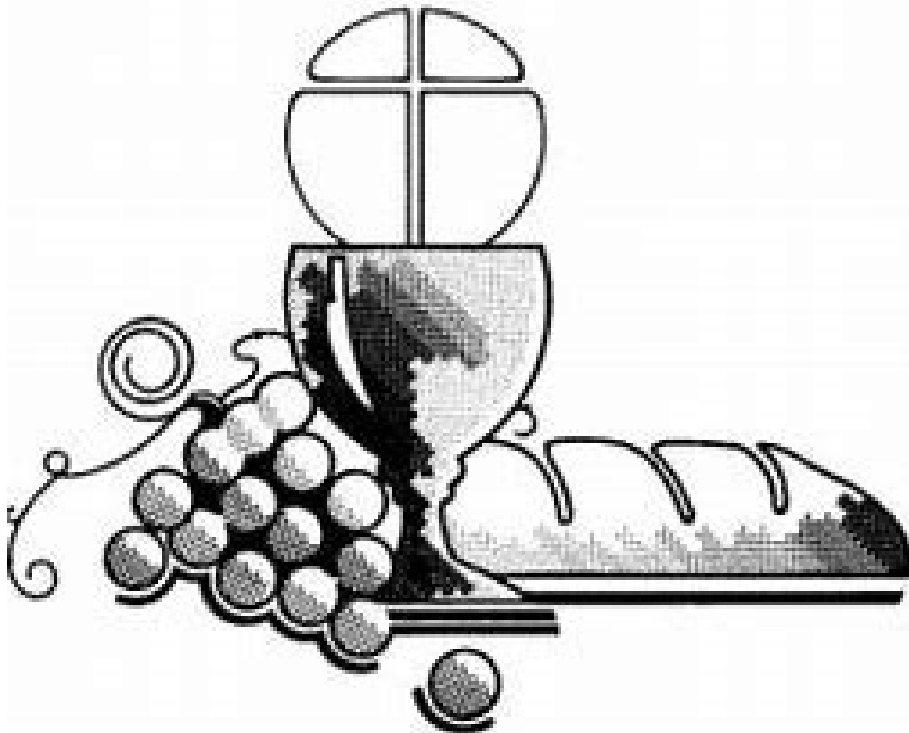
AS WE GATHER

Flocks of sheep can number in the hundreds or even thousands. An annual trek from winter quarters to summer pastures and back again at a location in rural Idaho consistently draws hundreds of spectators to a location where the sheep must cross a major highway to reach their destination. Keeping track of two or three thousand sheep on the move is quite a task! Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows how to care for not just thousands but millions of His sheeplike people. The prophet Isaiah says of the Lord God that He “will tend His flock like a shepherd” (40:11). Assured and reassured that we are part of His flock, we travel through life following the guidance of our caring Shepherd!

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 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Hymnal page 686, verses 1 and 2

1. Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove.

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

John 12:26; Ephesians 4:15; Psalm 25:1–3, 5, 10; 106:48

Pastor: Jesus said: “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”

People: **Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.**

Pastor: To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust.

People: **Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame.**

Pastor: Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.

People: **All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.**

Pastor: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

People: **And let all the people say, “Amen!” Praise the LORD!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

People: **O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not put You first at all times. We have not followed in the ways You have set forth for us. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation and have not shared its bounty on all occasions. We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honorable. We have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. We have not honored those in authority and have not without reservation encouraged them. We have not completely put the best construction on all things and on all people. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins, and finally by Your grace, bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. 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 23; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b*

Pastor: I am the good shepherd.

I know My own and My own know Me, and I lay down My life for the sheep.

People: **The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.**

Pastor: He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.

People: **He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

Pastor: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.

People: **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

All: **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 am the good shepherd.

I know My own and My own know Me. And I lay down My life for the sheep.

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.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.



FIRST READING

Acts 4:1–12

(Peter and John are brought before the Jerusalem Council.)

4 ¹ And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ² greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴ But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. ⁵ On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by Him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹ This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 23

23 ¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
In the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

EPISTLE

1 John 3:16–24

(Followers of Christ are called to love in deed and in truth.)

¹⁶ By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before Him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him. ²³ And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He has commanded us. ²⁴ Whoever keeps His commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:11–18

(Jesus prays for and about His disciples.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Hymnal page 709, verses 1 and 2

1. The King of Love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever.

2. Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.

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: In peace, let us pray to the Lord, beseeching Him for the needs of ourselves and others.

Trusting in God's loving response, we pray for the church and all who are called to lives of service to God's people, asking that the Lord will bless His undershepherds and all who care for His flock.

People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for ourselves, that the Holy Spirit guide us into gracious ways and instill in us a holy confidence in the goodness of our God, aiding us in our prayers. With thanks for the faithful examples set by those whose earthly journeys are complete and whose witness to Christ yet inspires us, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for the blessing of God upon our nation and its leaders that we may lead peaceable lives, and we pray for the needs of ourselves and others for healing and restoration, for solace and comfort

People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: These things and all else that we should have asked grant us according to Your gracious will, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

People: Amen.

HYMN SEQUENCE

Pastor: The image of the loving Shepherd featured in Psalm 23 reminds us that our Lord is always with us, ready to guide us and to support us. The image is one that resonates with young children and has been featured in hymns texts used in Sunday School hymnals. The hymn "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" first appeared in a volume *Hymns for the Young, selected for the purpose of being committed to memory* in England in 1832. We might well follow the directive of the hymnbook's title and commit this special hymn to memory. We sing the first two stanzas of "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us."

HYMN "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" Hymnal page 711, verses 1 and 2

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
You have bought us; we are Yours.

2. We are Yours; in love befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Hear us children when we pray.

Pastor: Originally framed as a hymn for children, “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us” contains solid biblical truths. We rejoice that our Lord has bought us and that He defends us in many ways, even though we are sinful. His caring mercy is experienced in all our days. As faithful followers of the Good Shepherd, we seek to do His will in our lives as we experience His divine love. We sing stanzas three and four of the hymn.

HYMN “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us” Hymnal 711, verses 3 and 4

3. You have promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to You.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to You.

4. Early let us seek Your favor,
Early let us do Your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
With Your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
You have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
You have loved us, love us still.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Goodness of God” **SOLO BY RAY HUTCHINSON**

✠ 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, Lord our God. You call us to be Your people and invite us to bring our cares to You in prayer. You did so love the world that You sent Your only Son to be our Redeemer. By His sacrificial life and death and glorious resurrection He has brought us salvation and has shown us the path to life eternal. Pour upon us now the gift of the Holy Spirit that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord with true devotion in this sacred fellowship of Your pilgrim people. Grant us a foretaste of the feast to come, heavenly Father, that we may with increased faith joyfully await a blessed eternity in Your glorious presence.

People: **Amen.**

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, O Lord of heaven and earth. We give thanks to You for the gifts of bread and wine here before us and for Your gracious provision for all Your creatures. Invited by Your grace and supported by Your love, we come to Your Table with thanksgiving and praise. Grant that we receive, with true faith and trust in Your words of promise, the bread and wine, that is, the very body and blood of Christ, as a guarantee of the salvation that He purchased for us through His innocent suffering and death on the cross. Receive our prayers and praises and grant that we may follow You as Your people, in this season of Easter and always. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise 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.

**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 COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.
Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His Body, the church. And we ask You to help us by Your Holy Spirit that we may continue in this fellowship and do the good works which You desire us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

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 “Beautiful Savior” Hymnal page 537, verses 1 and 2

1. Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2. Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer;
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

Pastoral Care:

Please contact –

Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613

BLESSED TO BE SERVING TODAY

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

PRAYERS OF CARE & CONCERN FOR OUR FLC FAMILY

Philip Caballero: Please pray for his speedy recovery from his several falls and low sodium situation.

Jean Hyland: A long time member suffered a fall and passed away on March 7th, 2024. Please pray for her family during their time of grief and loss. There will be a memorial service planned here on May 18th, 2024 (Saturday) at 11:00 a.m.

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

Pastor Ken Frese

Pastor Ken will be here on April 28th, 2024 and May 5th, 2024 to conduct the worship services for the church. We thank Pastor Ken for his help during the transitional period.





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>

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

SUNDAY

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

TODAY – APRIL 21

Fellowship time
Bible Study and Sunday School

Pastor Scott's Retirement Luncheon

SATURDAY

8:00 a.m.
2:00 p.m.

APRIL 27

Volunteer at Friends In Deed
Afternoon singing J.S. Bach hymns
RSVP to Tabita at: (626) 447-9506

2437 Florence Avenue, Arcadia CA 91007

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.



