

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Bear Fruit in Keeping with Repentance

December 7, 2025



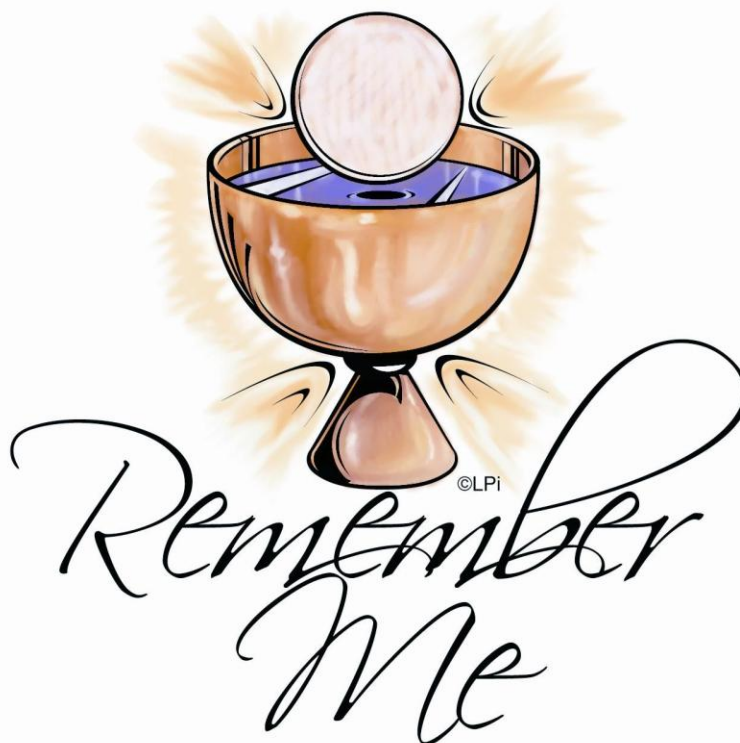
AS WE GATHER

The problem with good works is not *that* we should do them but *why*. Our works reflect what it is we believe and hold dear. Works are the fruit of repentance and faith and do not add to what Christ has done in His mighty work of redemption. The call to bear the good fruit of repentance is not to work harder to be saved but to manifest in our everyday lives that we are saved, that we belong to the Lord, and that He has accomplished all things for our salvation. John faced a generation impressed with their works and empty of faith in God's mercy. We should know that doing works is not a choice. Hearts of faith will produce the good fruits of repentance. This is the calling of Christians and the mark of the work of the Spirit in our lives.

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 ✠

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 72:2, 4, alt.; Philippians 1:6

Pastor: May God judge His people with righteousness and justice.

People: **May He defend the poor, deliver the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

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 "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Hymnal page 347, verses 1 and 3

1. "Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over."

3. Hark, the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

KYRIE

Hymnal page 168

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 our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.



OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 11:1–10

(“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse.”)

- 11** ¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a Branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
³ And His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what His eyes see,
or decide disputes by what His ears hear,
⁴ but with righteousness He shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
and with the breath of His lips He shall kill the wicked.
⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of His waist,
and faithfulness the belt of His loins.
⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.
⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy
in all My holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of Him shall the nations inquire, and His resting place shall be glorious.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalm 72:1–7; antiphon: v. 18*

- 72** ¹ Give the king Your justice, O God,
and Your righteousness to the royal Son!
² May He judge Your people with righteousness,
and Your poor with justice!
³ Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!
⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!
⁵ May they fear You while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!
⁷ In His days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

EPISTLE *Romans 15:4–13*

(“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.”)

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise You among the Gentiles,
and sing to Your name.”

¹⁰ And again it says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people.”

¹¹ And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol Him.”

¹² And again Isaiah says,

“The Root of Jesse will come,
even He who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in Him will the Gentiles hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 3:1–12*

(“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord.’”)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

3 ¹ In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³ For this is he who was spoken of
by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make His paths straight.’”

⁴ Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will clear His threshing floor and gather His wheat into the barn, but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Hymnal page 344, verses 1 to 4

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

2. Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

3. We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4. Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.

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: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace to acknowledge the Lord, who made all things for Himself, and for faith to trust in His mercy incarnate in Jesus Christ, His Son, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the church established by Christ and sustained by Him through the means of grace, for boldness to call a world to repentance, and for faithfulness to proclaim His Gospel without fear, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all the nations and peoples of the earth and for those who lead them, but especially for this nation, our president, governor, legislators, and magistrates, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grateful hearts to receive the good fruits of the earth with thanksgiving and for wisdom that we might bear the good fruit of repentance in our lives, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all godly and noble vocations, for marriages and children, for the single and the retired, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For an end to poverty and need and for compassion that we may manifest charity for all those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the sick, the suffering, the dying, and those who attend to them, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all needs of body and soul, and for courage that we may not depart the way of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Jesus Shall Reign”

Hymnal page 832, verses 1 and 4

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

4. Blessings abound where'er He reigns;
The pris'ners leap, unloose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest.

✠ 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in 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: In speaking all things into being, You manifested both Your goodness and Your love. In sending forth the promise of a Savior, You showed forth Your compassion and mercy. In the fullness of time You brought forth Your promise, sending into the womb of the virgin by the power of the Spirit Your only-begotten Son. As He has accomplished all things for our salvation by the one, all-sufficient offering of His body on the cross, we give You thanks and praise that You have counted us worthy to stand before You and to receive the precious gift of His grace in His Meal, which He established by His own will and testament.

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: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

People: **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; 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

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 “The Advent of Our King” Hymnal page 331, verses 1, and 4 to 6

1. The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.

5. Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

*** *Please stand if you are able* ***

4. As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav'n to reign.

△ 6. All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

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

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

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. (Pastor Ganas' Memorial information is listed on the last page – page 16.)

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.

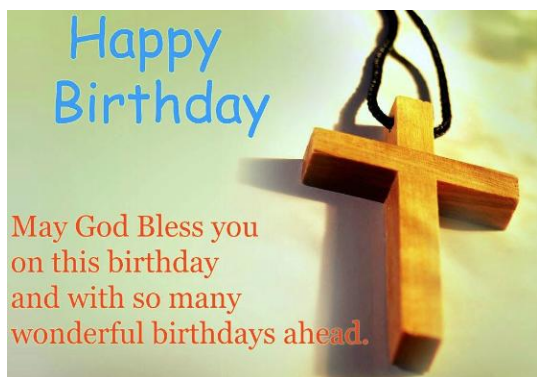
Perry Singleton, Jan and Keith Edmunds: More prayers for Pastor Frank Matthews' friends and cousin as they continue deal with many health issues.

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.





BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK

Dave Lassanske

December 11

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 – DECEMBER 7

Fellowship time

Bible Study & Sunday School

MEMORIAL FOR PASTOR SCOTT GANAS

Pastor Scott's "Celebration of Life" service will take place on:
December 12th, 2025 (Friday) at: 11:00 a.m.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Address: 304 E. Covina Blvd., Covina CA 91722.
Telephone number: (626) 332-3142.

Luncheon after the service at:
Azusa Women's Center
1003 N. Azusa Ave.
Azusa, CA 91702

