

## **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY**

9123 Broadway, Temple City, CA 91780

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

Preschool Office: (626) 285-3380

Website: <https://firstlutherantc.org>

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

## **THANKSGIVING EVE**

Who's the Fool?

November 26, 2025



### **AS WE GATHER**

Did you give thanks for your last meal? Most people—even Christians—often “forget” to give thanks. When we do not give thanks, we are like the rich fool of the parable, thinking it was his work that brought the grain, when in fact it was God who gave it to Him. When we do not give thanks, we become fools, forgetting who gave us what we have and all we are. Have you been foolish? That is what Jesus calls the rich man. Give thanks always—that is the advice of Paul. Above all, give thanks for the cross and the empty tomb, which opens heaven to us.

## ✖ PREPARATION ✖

**HYMN**    "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"    Hymnal page 892

1. Come, ye thankful people, come;  
Raise the song of harvest home.  
All be safely gathered in  
Ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our Maker, doth provide  
For our wants to be supplied.  
Come to God's own temple, come;  
Raise the song of harvest home.

2. All the world is God's own field,  
Fruit unto His praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown,  
Unto joy or sorrow grown.  
First the blade and then the ear,  
Then the full corn shall appear.  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

3. For the Lord, our God, shall come  
And shall take His harvest home,  
From His field shall in that day  
All offences purge away,  
Give His angels charge at last  
In the fire the tares to cast,  
But the fruitful ears to store  
In His garner evermore.

4. Even so, Lord, quickly come  
To Thy final harvest home;  
Gather Thou Thy people in,  
Free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever purified,  
In Thy garner to abide:  
Come with all Thine angels, come,  
Raise the glorious harvest home.

## INVOCATION

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

## OPENING SENTENCES      *Psalm 136:1–4*

**Pastor:**    Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,  
**People:**    **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

**Pastor:**    Give thanks to the God of gods,  
**People:**    **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

**Pastor:**    Give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
**People:**    **for His steadfast love endures forever;**

**Pastor:**    to Him who alone does great wonders,  
**People:**    **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

## CONFSSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Psalm 14:1; Romans 3:12; Psalm 136:1*

Pastor: The fool says in his heart,

**“There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.**

Pastor: We want to think it is other people David refers to in this verse. Yet Paul puts us all in the same category when he writes to the Romans,

**People: “All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” Forgive us, Lord, for the sins we have committed in thought, word, and deed. We deserve Your punishment, both now and for eternity.**

*Silence for reflection*

Pastor: I have the best news for you as we celebrate and give thanks to God for all He has done this year. He has given us the greatest thing to be thankful for today—the forgiveness of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: “Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.” Amen.**

## ✖ WORD ✎

### INTROIT

*Psalm 104:24, 27–28, 30; antiphon: v. 33*

Pastor: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;

**People: I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

Pastor: O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom have You made them all;

**People: the earth is full of Your creatures.**

Pastor: These all look to You,

**People: to give them their food in due season.**

Pastor: When You give it to them, they gather it up;

**People: when You open Your hand, they are filled with good things.**

Pastor: When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created,

**People: and You renew the face of the ground.**

**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 sing to the LORD as long as I live;

**People: I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

## KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord;  
**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For thanksgiving for all that comes from above, especially our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord;  
**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For thanksgiving for all that You have created, and for the well-being of the  
church of God, let us pray to the Lord;  
**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For thanksgiving for all, and that you would bring unity and peace to Your  
people, let us pray to the Lord;  
**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: In thanksgiving for this holy house and all who offer You their worship,  
thanks, and praise, let us pray to the Lord;  
**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**People: Lord, have mercy.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE      "Praise and Thanksgiving"    Hymnal page 789

**1.** Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer,  
For all things living, Created good:  
Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard,  
Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.

**2.** Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve You  
That with our neighbor We may be fed.  
Sowing or tilling, We would work with You,  
Harvesting, milling For daily bread.

**3.** Father, providing Food for Your children,  
By Your wise guiding Teach us to share  
One with another, So that, rejoicing  
With us, all others May know Your care.

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.  
Almighty God, You crown the fields with Your blessing and permit us to gather the fruits of the earth. As stewards of Your creation, grant that we receive Your gifts in humble thankfulness and share Your bounty with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Deuteronomy 26:1–11*

(God's people celebrated the first of the harvest, confessing who it was that gave them the harvest.)

**26** <sup>1</sup>“When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make His name to dwell there. <sup>3</sup>And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.’ <sup>4</sup>Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God. <sup>5</sup>“And you shall make response before the LORD your God, ‘A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. <sup>6</sup>And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. <sup>7</sup>Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. <sup>9</sup>And He brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.’ And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup>And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *Psalm 65*

Pastor: Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion, and to You shall vows be performed.  
People: **O You who hears prayer, to You shall all flesh come.**

Pastor: When iniquities prevail against me, You atone for our transgressions.  
People: **Blessed is the one You choose and bring near, to dwell in Your courts!**

Pastor: We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, the holiness of Your temple!  
People: **By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas;**

Pastor: the one who by His strength established the mountains, being girded with might; who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples,  
People: **so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at Your signs.**

Pastor: You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.  
People: **You visit the earth and water it; You greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, for so You have prepared it.**

Pastor: You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.  
People: **You crown the year with Your bounty; Your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.**

Pastor: The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
People: **the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.**

## EPISTLE

*2 Corinthians 9:6–15*

(We are called to be overflowing in our thanksgiving to God.)

<sup>6</sup> The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, He has given to the poor;  
His righteousness endures forever.”

<sup>10</sup> He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup> For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup> By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, <sup>14</sup> while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 12:13–21*

(A rich man becomes a fool because he does not see God as the reason to give thanks.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

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

<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” <sup>14</sup> But He said to him, “Man, who made Me a judge or arbitrator over you?” <sup>15</sup> And He said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” <sup>16</sup> And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, <sup>17</sup> and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup> And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ <sup>21</sup> So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**      "Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

Hymnal page 893, verses 1 and 2

1. Sing to the Lord of harvest,  
Sing songs of love and praise;  
With joyful hearts and voices  
Your alleluias raise.  
By Him the rolling seasons  
In fruitful order move;  
Sing to the Lord of harvest  
A joyous song of love.

2. God makes the clouds rain goodness,  
The deserts bloom and spring.  
The hills leap up in gladness,  
The valleys laugh and sing.  
God fills them with His fullness,  
All things with large increase;  
He crowns the year with blessing,  
With plenty and with peace.

## **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: With the great day before thanksgiving for all God has given us, we pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and all people according to their needs.

**People:** **We come before the Lord with thankful hearts for all He has done. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty God, we come before You on this great day before Thanksgiving, confessing that You have given us all we have,

**People:** **yet we often foolishly think what we have is of our doing. Forgive us for our foolishness. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We remember those in our church family and those we know who are sick and suffering.

**People:** **We lift them up to the great heavenly physician, asking You, dear Lord, to bring healing and health, bringing remedies as only You can and according to Your will. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We recall that You have called us in Scripture to pray for kings and all in authority that we might live peaceful lives.

**People:** **We lift up every ruler in every land; especially this day, we lift up our President, Congress, and all government officials. Guide all by Your Holy Spirit to accomplish Your will on this earth, that Your kingdom may truly come. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We are also reminded by Your Word to pray for those who are persecuted.

**People:** **We ask that You would be with them in their hour of trial; strengthen their faith and remind them of their great reward. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Each year, Your people of old would recall who they were because of Your blessings.

**People:** **We, like them, are nobody apart from You. Through the cross and empty tomb, You make us Yours by faith, members of Your family, for which we give You thanks. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Your Word calls us to remember the poor and those in need.

**People:** **By Your Holy Spirit, open our eyes that we may see those who are poor and in need that we can serve them. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You have sent Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, by which we have believed Your Word and are members of Your kingdom,

**People:** **but we know there are those who do not believe in You. Use us by Your Spirit, according to Your will, that these ripe fields may bring a great harvest for Your glory. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We lift these and all the prayers of our hearts before Your throne, almighty God.

**People:** **We pray in the name of Jesus, who with You and the Holy Spirit is one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

“Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”

Hymnal 806

Give thanks with a grateful heart;  
Give thanks to the Holy One;  
Give thanks— because  
He's given— Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong;”  
Let the poor say, “I am rich,”—  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks with a grateful heart;  
Give thanks to the Holy One;  
Give thanks— because  
He's given— Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong;”  
Let the poor say, “I am rich,”—  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks, — give thanks.—

### LORD'S PRAYER

*(Matthew 6:9–13)*

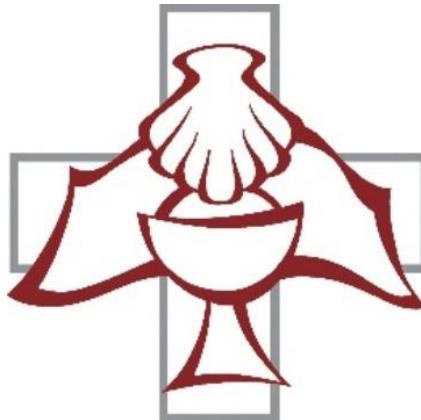
**People:** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

### 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****"Now Thank We All Our God"**

Hymnal page 895

1. Now thank we all our God  
With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done,  
In whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms  
Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love  
And still is ours today.

2. Oh, may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us  
And keep us in His grace  
And guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next!

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

△ 3. All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

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