

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY

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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Guided by Faith

October 12, 2025



AS WE GATHER

In our Readings today, we see not only where faith guides but also to whom it ultimately leads. In Ruth 1, we learn of Naomi's difficulties as she faced numerous instances of grief. Yet her faith remained in the Lord and His provision, which would lead her to Judah. Faithful to her mother-in-law, Ruth would be guided not only to a new land but also to the knowledge of the one true God. In 2 Timothy 2, even amid imprisonment and suffering, Paul points young Timothy and all hearers in faith to remember Jesus Christ, reminding of the One who remains faithful despite earthly troubles. In Luke 17, ten lepers encounter Jesus and beg for His mercy. Jesus heals them all and then affirms the faith of the cleansed Samaritan, making him well spiritually. As we are called, gathered, and enlightened by the Holy Spirit, who gives and sustains the gift of faith still, we are guided by Scripture and led through it to our Savior, Jesus, in whose name we worship in our prayer, our praise, and our thanksgiving for all He has done.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” Hymnal page 700, verses 1 and 2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit;
Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 111:1–8*

Pastor: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

People: **Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**

Pastor: Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.

People: **He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

Pastor: He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever.

People: **He has shown His people the power of His works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

Pastor: The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy;

People: **they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

2 Timothy 2:1, 3, 8a, 11–13; Psalm 111:9–10

Pastor: As we come before the Lord with humble and contrite hearts, we hear the words of encouragement from Paul to young Timothy: “You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”

People: **God of grace, we ask Your forgiveness for the times we seek strength away from where You promise to be present with Your Word and in Your means of grace, and for the times we have not desired the grace found in Christ Jesus, our Lord.**

Pastor: “Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”

People: **We confess we have chosen the easy way out when our following and serving of Jesus becomes difficult for our lives, forsaking Your name and the name You have given us in Baptism.**

Pastor: “Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead.”

People: **We confess we have not remembered the victory Jesus Christ has won for us over sin, death, and the devil, through His sacrificial death and rising from the dead. Because of this, we have not loved You with all our heart, soul, and strength, and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with Him,

People: **we will also live with Him;**

Pastor: if we endure, we will also reign with Him;

People: **if we deny Him, He also will deny us;**

Pastor: if we are faithless,

People: **He remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself.**

Pastor: Our faithful God, the one 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 sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.

People: **Holy and awesome is His name!**

Pastor: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

People: **His praise endures forever!**

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 34:2–4, 17; antiphon: Psalm 48:1*

Pastor: Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God!

People: **My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.
Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt His name together!
I sought the LORD, and He answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.**

Pastor: When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears
and delivers them out of all their troubles..

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: Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God!

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

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

Hymnal page 816, verses 2 and 3

2. Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;
Eternal truth attends Thy Word.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore
Till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

△ 3. All praise to God the Father be,
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Whom with the Spirit we adore
Forever and forevermore:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
Almighty God, You show mercy to Your people in all their troubles. Grant us always to recognize Your goodness, give thanks for Your compassion, and praise Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ruth 1:1–19a

(Ruth's loyalty to widow Naomi)

1 ¹ In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ² The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵ and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. ⁶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited His people and given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. ¹⁰ And they said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.”

¹¹ But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands?" ¹² Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, ¹³ would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me." ¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵ And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶ But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." ¹⁸ And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more. ¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 111; antiphon: v. 10*

111 ¹ Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.

³ Full of splendor and majesty is His work,
and His righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

⁵ He provides food for those who fear Him;
He remembers His covenant forever.

⁶ He has shown His people the power of His works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

⁷ The works of His hands are faithful and just;
all His precepts are trustworthy;

⁸ they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹ He sent redemption to His people;
He has commanded His covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is His name!

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!

EPISTLE *2 Timothy 2:1–13*

(A good soldier of Jesus Christ)

2 ¹ You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. ³ Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. ⁵ An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. ⁷ Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. ⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. ¹¹ The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with Him, we will also live with Him;

¹² if we endure, we will also reign with Him;

if we deny Him, He also will deny us;

¹³ if we are faithless, He remains faithful—

for He cannot deny Himself.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 17:11–19*

(Jesus cleanses ten lepers.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as He entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” ¹⁴ When He saw them He said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ And He said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Onward, Christian Soldiers”

Hymnal page 662

1. Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.
Christ, the royal master,
Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle
See His banners go!
Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.

2. Like a mighty army
Moves the Church of God;
Brothers, we are treading
Where the saints have trod.
We are not divided,
All one body we,
One in hope and doctrine,
One in charity.
Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.

3. Crowns and thrones may perish,
Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus
Constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never
'Gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise,
And that cannot fail.
Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.

4. Onward, then, ye faithful,
Join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices
In the triumph song:
Glory, laud, and honor
Unto Christ, the king;
This through countless ages
Men and angels sing.
Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.

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

2 Timothy 2:8, 13

Pastor: Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus, for His church, and for all people according to their needs.

God of everlasting mercy, You offer Your salvation and redemption to all people with forgiveness assured through faith in Your Son. As You did for Your people of old, including Ruth and Naomi, grant us trust in Your provision and direction, even amid trials we may face. Help us to endure and to also point others to the help and hope You offer and sustain by Your grace. As we remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead,

People: hear our prayer, for You remain faithful.

Pastor: Ever-sustaining Lord, who strengthens by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, encourage us by Your servant Paul. As he endured persecution and prison for the sake of Your Gospel for the salvation of the world, sustain us in our faith and in our witness. Grant strength to endure the trials and sufferings in this world, and to remain firm in faith when we bear Your name as Your baptized and redeemed people. Soften hearts of those who reject Your Word and grace and pour out Your Spirit that many more may come to know Your mercy, which is known and shown through Your Son. As we remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead,

People: hear our prayer, for You remain faithful.

Pastor: Healing Lord, out of compassion, Jesus healed the ten lepers afflicted by disease. Be with those who suffer in body and mind with disease, diagnosis, and despair. We especially lift up to You those who have asked for our prayers. For those afflictions and ailments known only to You, grant the comfort of Your presence and healing according to Your will. We thank You for the healing of our greatest afflictions faced against the world, the devil, and our sinful flesh. Through hardships, as we remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead,

People: hear our prayer, for You remain faithful.

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

People: Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”

Hymnal page 806

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

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.
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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING SENTENCES

2 Timothy 2:1, 3, 8a, 11–13

Pastor: Be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

People: Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead.

Pastor: Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

People: Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead.

Pastor: If we have died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will
also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us; if we are
faithless, He remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself.

People: Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead.

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 “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing” Hymnal page 924

1. Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing; Fill our hearts with joy and peace; Let us each, Your love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace. O refresh us, O refresh us, Trav'ling through this wilderness.	2. Thanks we give and adoration For Your Gospel's joyful sound. May the fruits of Your salvation In our hearts and lives abound. Ever faithful, ever faithful To Your truth may we be found.
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3. Savior, when Your love shall call us
From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let not fear of death appall us,
Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with You in endless day.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 4.
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Pastoral Care:

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BLESSED TO BE SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Pastor Frank Matthews
Greeter: Diane Oberlander
Reader: Christine Geltz
Musician: Christine Geltz
Ushers: Donald Lammerts, Dave Lassanke, and Craig Boehne

PRAYERS OF CARE & CONCERN FOR OUR FLC FAMILY

Nancy Poser: Prayers for Nancy and her family during their time of grief with the recent passing of her husband, Walter Poser.

Rachel Witcher: Prayers of healing from her broken wrist after her recent fall with uneventful healing after the surgery.

Jo Tschopp: Prayers of continuing healing.

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

Sandy Sussman: Continuing prayers of healing for this niece of former members Bruce and Lynn Bertram.

Perry Singleton, Jan, and Keith Edmunds: Prayers for Pastor Frank Matthews' friends and cousin.

Patricia Caballero: Continuing prayers of healing after her recent surgery.



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/programquidedaily>.

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 – OCTOBER 12
9:30 a.m.	Fellowship time
9:45 a.m.	Bible Study and Sunday School

NEXT WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

SUNDAY	OCTOBER 19
9:30 a.m.	Fellowship time
9:45 a.m.	Bible Study and Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Board of Directors meeting

Today (October 12th) is Pastor Appreciation day!

Your teaching has helped many grow in their faith and understanding of God's Word. They are uplifting and timely. Thank you, Pastor, for your gift of communication and spiritual insight as you continue to lead us.