

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY**

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**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

With Wonder upon Wonder

August 25, 2024



**AS WE GATHER**

One of the saddest things in life is when we lose our sense of wonder—when we can no longer behold the beauty of God’s creation and be moved by it or when we take for granted the mystery of our salvation by the blood of the Lamb. The prophet Isaiah promises the restoration of wonder and the Spirit fulfills that promise with faith that trusts in what we have not seen. Today we ask the Lord to fill us with awe as we receive the inheritance of the saints who went before and add to it the witness of our age of the joy of salvation to bequeath to those who come after.

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**HYMN** "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

Hymnal 575

1. My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

3. His oath, His covenant and blood  
Support me in the raging flood;  
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

4. When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Him be found,  
Clothed in His righteousness alone,  
Redeemed to stand before His throne!  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

## INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Psalm 14:1*

Pastor: The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

People: **They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.**

*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 my heart may know peace.**

Pastor: By the mercy of God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ and in Him we are forgiven. 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.**

Pastor: He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Greet one another with the sign of peace.*

## ✠ WORD ✠

**INTROIT** *Psalm 26:1–2, 6–7; antiphon: v. 8*

Pastor: O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

**People: Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity,  
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.  
Prove me, O LORD, and try me;  
test my heart and my mind.  
I wash my hands in innocence and go around Your altar, O LORD,  
proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all Your wondrous deeds.**

**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: O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

**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** "All Glory Be to God on High"

Hymnal 947

1. All glory be to God on high,  
And thanks for all His favor;  
No harm can touch or terrify  
A child of God forever.  
God shows His good and gracious will  
And grants His peace, the world to fill—  
All strife at last has ended.

2. We praise and laud and worship You;  
We give You thanks forever,  
O Father, for Your rule is true  
And just and changes never.  
With boundless pow'r, Your mighty reign  
Fulfills whatever You ordain.  
Lord, grant us ev'ry blessing!

3. O Jesus Christ, the only Son  
Begotten of the Father,  
Your saving death has made us one  
With God and with each other.  
O Lamb of God, to You on high  
In our distress we sinners cry.  
Have mercy on us, amen!

4. O Holy Spirit, our delight  
And source of consolation,  
Protect us from the devil's might  
Through Jesus, our salvation,  
Who by His death upon a tree  
Has rescued us from misery:  
To this we hold forever.

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, defend Your church from all false teaching and error that Your faithful people may confess You to be the only true God and rejoice in Your good gifts of life and salvation; 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

*Isaiah 29:11–19*

(“I will again do wonderful things with this people.”)

<sup>11</sup> And the vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, “Read this,” he says, “I cannot, for it is sealed.” <sup>12</sup> And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, “Read this,” he says, “I cannot read.”

<sup>13</sup> And the LORD said:

“Because this people draw near with their mouth  
and honor Me with their lips,  
while their hearts are far from Me,  
and their fear of Me is a commandment taught by men,  
<sup>14</sup> therefore, behold, I will again  
do wonderful things with this people,  
with wonder upon wonder;  
and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish,  
and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden.”

<sup>15</sup> Ah, you who hide deep from the LORD your counsel,  
whose deeds are in the dark,  
and who say, “Who sees us? Who knows us?”

<sup>16</sup> You turn things upside down!  
Shall the potter be regarded as the clay,  
that the thing made should say of its maker,  
“He did not make me”;  
or the thing formed say of him who formed it,  
“He has no understanding”?

<sup>17</sup> Is it not yet a very little while  
until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field,  
and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest?

<sup>18</sup> In that day the deaf shall hear  
the words of a book,  
and out of their gloom and darkness  
the eyes of the blind shall see.

<sup>19</sup> The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD,  
and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *Psalm 14; antiphon: v. 7a*

- 14**<sup>1</sup> The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”  
They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;  
there is none who does good.
- <sup>2</sup> The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man,  
to see if there are any who understand,  
who seek after God.
- <sup>3</sup> They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt;  
there is none who does good,  
not even one.
- <sup>4</sup> Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers  
who eat up My people as they eat bread  
and do not call upon the LORD?
- <sup>5</sup> There they are in great terror,  
for God is with the generation of the righteous.
- <sup>6</sup> You would shame the plans of the poor,  
but the LORD is His refuge.
- <sup>7</sup> Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!  
When the Lord restores the fortunes of His people,  
let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

**EPISTLE** *Ephesians 5:22–33*

(Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.)

- <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior.
- <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.
- <sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of His body.
- <sup>31</sup> “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**     *Mark 7:1–13*

(“This people honors Me with their lips but their heart is far from Me.”)

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

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

**7** <sup>1</sup> Now when the Pharisees gathered to Him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> they saw that some of His disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. <sup>3</sup> (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, <sup>4</sup> and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) <sup>5</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup> And He said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

“This people honors Me with their lips,  
but their heart is far from Me;  
<sup>7</sup> in vain do they worship Me,  
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

<sup>8</sup> You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.” <sup>9</sup> And He said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! <sup>10</sup> For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ <sup>11</sup> But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, “Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban”’ (that is, given to God)— <sup>12</sup> then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, <sup>13</sup> thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

**Pastor:**     This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**     “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

Hymnal page 563, verses 1 to 2

**1.** Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness  
My beauty are, my glorious dress;  
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,  
With joy shall I lift up my head.

**2.** Bold shall I stand in that great day,  
Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;  
Fully absolved through these I am  
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

## SERMON – “A Cautionary Tale”

**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:**    Guard Your people, O Lord, let not our hearts be empty of faith nor our  
                  minds filled with pride. Give us a healthy respect for the things of old, which  
                  we have received from those who have gone before and give us a living  
                  faith that trusts not in works but in Christ alone. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:**    **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:**    Give grace to Your church, that she be built upon the foundation of the  
                  apostles and prophets and Christ the chief cornerstone, but also that she  
                  faithfully pass on the Gospel to those to come. Bless all pastors and church  
                  workers in their vocations to serve us with Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:**    **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:**    Give grace to the leaders of this and every land, that every people may  
                  enjoy good government, peace among the nations, security in their homes,  
                  and reward for virtue. Bless us in our service to our neighbor and those in  
                  need. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:**    **hear our prayer.**



Pastor: Give grace to the catechumens and to the newly baptized, that they diligently seek the instruction of Your Word to grow in the knowledge of our Lord and so become steadfast and immovable in the face of challenge or temptation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Give grace to those afflicted in body or mind that they may rest their cares upon You and be kept strong in the day of trouble, and those we name in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

*Additional prayers and petitions may be added.*

Pastor: Give grace so that we may be grateful for Your blessings new every morning and we may be generous in sharing from Your abundant gifts to those in need. Be with the unemployed and those just entering the workforce, that our labors may be fruitful for our benefit and for Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Give grace that we may not disdain the living faith of the dead whose witness daily encourages our own faithfulness nor abandon the sacred tradition we have received but keep it with holy hearts and confess it with bold voices. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Through Him, with Him, in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, both now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY**

“Seek Ye First”

Hymnal 712, verses

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God,  
And His righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you!  
Allelu, alleluia!

2. Ask and it shall be given unto you,  
Seek and ye shall find,  
Knock & the door shall be opened unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!

3. Man does not live by bread alone,  
But by ev'ry word  
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord,  
Allelu, alleluia!

## 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

### 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 Church’s One Foundation”

Hymnal page 644, verses 1 to 4

1. The Church’s one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation  
By water and the Word.  
From heav’n He came and sought her  
To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her,  
And for her life He died.

2. Elect from ev’ry nation,  
Yet one o’er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation:  
One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses,  
Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses  
With ev’ry grace endued.

3. Though with a scornful wonder  
The world sees her oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder,  
By heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping;  
Their cry goes up, “How long?”  
And soon the night of weeping  
Shall be the morn of song.

4. Through toil and tribulation  
And tumult of her war  
She waits the consummation  
Of peace forevermore  
Till with the vision glorious  
Her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great Church victorious  
Shall be the Church at rest.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 3.

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Pastoral Care:

Please contact –

Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613

## **BLESSED TO BE SERVING TODAY**

Pastor: Pastor Ken Frese

Greeter: Sharon Corey

Reader: Christine Geltz

Musician: Christine Geltz

Ushers: Craig Boehne, Donald Lammerts, & Dave Lassanske

## **PRAYERS OF CARE & CONCERN FOR OUR FLC FAMILY**

Emily Northcutt: This former student member who recently passed away at the age 30. Emily was born with multiple health challenges; she was expected to live 6 months. Pray that the family experience God's peace and comfort as they grieve. Pray that they cling to God's promises to always be with them.

Connie Kean has returned home after spending time in a Rehab Center for her spinal fracture. Praise God that she is home and pray that the pains and discomforts would lessen. Pray that she is able to participate well in the Physical Therapy sessions and soon be stronger.

Philip Caballero: Please pray for his family during their time of grief and loss, especially for Patricia.

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: Please continue to pray for our missionary during her transition period as she continues to prepare for her return to Africa. In addition, also pray for Anna's ability to maintain good health. Any correspondence to Anna may be mailed to:

**709 42<sup>nd</sup>A Street North, Great Falls MT (Montana) 59405**

## **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 sermons online by going to: <https://firstlutherantc.org/Media>



## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN**

### **SUNDAY**

9:30 a.m.

9:45 a.m.

### **TODAY – AUGUST 25**

Fellowship time

Bible Study & Sunday School

**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.**

