

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

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Following in Humility

August 31, 2025



AS WE GATHER

Entering the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the traditional site of the birth of Jesus, is one of the most memorable experiences for any Christian pilgrim visiting the Holy Land. First constructed at the commission of Roman Emperor Constantine the Great in AD 326, the church is on the oldest site continually used for worship by Christians anywhere in the world. Although the basilica initially had a grand arched entrance in its first thousand years, it came into a period of disuse and neglect after the conquest of the Holy Land by the Islamic rulers of the Ottoman Empire in AD 1516. In an effort to prevent people from entering the church with horses and cattle, the Christians caring for the building at that time walled up the main entrance, leaving only a very small door. This opening has ever since been known as the “Door of Humility.” It makes a most fitting way for those who come to worship at the site of the manger of the Christ Child to enter that sacred space. Where we worship here and now is also a sacred space. Although we may not have needed to bow down to enter the front door today, bringing an attitude of humility to our worship of our gracious Lord is truly fitting for us.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

Hymnal page 660

1. Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross.
Lift high His royal banner;
It must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry
His army He shall lead
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished,
And Christ is Lord indeed.

3. Stand up, stand up for Jesus;
Stand in His strength alone.
The arm of flesh will fail you,
Ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the Gospel armor;
Each piece put on with prayer.
Where duty calls or danger,
Be never wanting there.

2. Stand up, stand up for Jesus;
The trumpet call obey;
Stand forth in mighty conflict
In this His glorious day.
Let all His faithful serve Him
Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger
And strength to strength oppose.

4. Stand up, stand up for Jesus;
The strife will not be long;
This day the din of battle,
The next the victor's song.
The soldiers, overcoming,
Their crown of life shall see
And with the King of Glory
Shall reign eternally.

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 149:1–4*

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,

People: **His praise in the assembly of the godly!**

Pastor: Let Israel be glad in his Maker;

People: **let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!**

Pastor: Let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to Him with tambourine and lyre!

People: **For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins. The section on confession in Luther's catechism instructs us with these words: "Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven." Humble yourselves, then, before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

People: **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature, I am a sinful creature. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all of my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant 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.**

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 75:1–2, 6, 9; antiphon: v. 7*

Pastor: It is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.

People: **We give thanks to You, O God; we give thanks, for Your name is near. We recount Your wondrous deeds.**

Pastor: At the set time that I appoint I will judge with equity.

People: **For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up.**

Pastor: But I will declare it forever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

People: **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: It is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.

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

“Glorious is Your Name Most Holy”

“To do good and to communicate, forget not.” – Hebrews 13:16 (part of today’s readings)

Glorious is Your Name, most holy, God and Father of us all.

We Your servants bow before You, Strive to answer every call.

You with life’s great good have blest us, Cared for us from earliest years,
Unto You our thanks we render; Your deep love o’ercomes all fears.

In the midst of time we journey, From Your hand comes each new day.

We would use it in Your service, Humbly, wisely, while we may.

So to You, Lord and Creator, praise and honor we accord,

Yours the earth and Yours the heavens, Through all the Eternal Word.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Guidelines for a blessed life)

- ² It is the glory of God to conceal things,
but the glory of kings is to search things out.
³ As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,
so the heart of kings is unsearchable.
⁴ Take away the dross from the silver,
and the smith has material for a vessel;
⁵ take away the wicked from the presence of the king,
and his throne will be established in righteousness.
⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
⁷ for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.
What your eyes have seen
⁸ do not hastily bring into court,
for what will you do in the end,
when your neighbor puts you to shame?
⁹ Argue your case with your neighbor himself,
and do not reveal another's secret,
¹⁰ lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,
and your ill repute have no end.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalms 131*

- 131** ¹ O LORD, my heart is not lifted up;
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvelous for me.
² But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child is my soul within me.
³ O Israel, hope in the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 13:1–17

(Living in God-pleasing ways)

13 ¹ Let brotherly love continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. ⁵ Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” ⁶ So we can confidently say,

“The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear;
what can man do to me?”

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹ Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹ For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹² So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood. ¹³ Therefore let us go to Him outside the camp and bear the reproach He endured. ¹⁴ For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵ Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. ¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 14:1–14

(Jesus teaches about humble living.)

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

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

14 ¹ One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching Him carefully. ² And behold, there was a man before Him who had dropsy. ³ And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying,

“Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” ⁴ But they remained silent. Then He took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵ And He said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?” ⁶ And they could not reply to these things. ⁷ Now He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹ and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹ For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” ¹² He said also to the man who had invited Him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

Hymnal page 842

1. Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race,
You our Head, who, throned in glory,
For Your own will ever plead:
Fill us with Your love and pity,
Heal our wrongs, and help our need.

2. As You, Lord, have lived for others,
So may we for others live.
Freely have Your gifts been granted;
Freely may Your servants give.
Yours the gold and Yours the silver,
Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of Your bounty
Held in solemn trust will be.

3. Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of Love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion,
Bid its cruel discords cease.
By Your patient years of toiling,
By Your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
Stem our selfish greed of gain.

4. Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race:
By your praying, by Your willing,
That Your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition;
Here on earth Your will be done.

CHILDREN / YOUTHFUL MINISTRY MOMENT

(There are children activity pages found on the table where the Guest Book is located. Please have the child(ren) help themselves to all those pages. Thank you.)

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: God, our Savior, wants all people to come to know the truth. Let us pray for ourselves and for the church everywhere, that we may persevere in grace, and for all people, that we may share with them the joy we have in the unity of Christ.

For the church, the gathering of God's people; for the clergy of the church that the Holy Spirit confirm them in their apostolic mission; for all Christians, that persevering in grace, we may proclaim the kingdom of heaven in our lives, let us pray:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all public servants, that they zealously promote justice and the common good; for industrial workers, that their productivity provide blessing for all; for favorable weather, that we may give thanks for a good harvest, let us pray:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the homeless and the hungry; for the physically and mentally ill and the aged and infirm, that we cherish Christ in them and surround them with our care, and that each of us would be graced with holy humility that we may find our joy in humble service in Jesus' name in every situation, let us pray:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of our missionaries, missionary teachers, medical personnel, and all Christian aid workers, that their work be unhindered and be a continuing source of blessings in Jesus' name, let us pray:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: With thanks for the faithful examples set by those whose earthly journeys are complete and whose witness to Christ still inspires us, and also for this holy assembly here and now, that sealed with the promised Spirit, we may witness to the fullness of God's love, let us pray:

People: Be merciful, Lord God, and hear our prayers; grant Your Holy Spirit to plead for us and guide Your church into all truth and holiness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "We Praise You, O God" Hymnal page 785, verses 1 and 2

1. We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

2. We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us.
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

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

HYMN INTRODUCTION

Pastor: Of the four uses of the word *summer* in the hymns of *Lutheran Service Book*, perhaps the most memorable is its usage as the first word of the second stanza of “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” Text writer Thomas Chisholm lists the seasons of the year as “summer and winter and springtime and harvest” as annual witnesses to and reminders of the faithfulness, mercy, and love of God. Written in 1923 by Chisholm, who was serving as pastor of a Methodist church in Kansas at the time, the hymn gained worldwide acclaim after being introduced to audiences first in Great Britain in 1954 and subsequently in the United States by singer George Beverly Shea, who was associated with the Billy Graham crusades. The hymn reflects the words of the psalmist as he exclaims to the Lord, “With my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations” (Psalm 89:1). In summer and in all seasons of the year, it is our joy to sing of the blessings we know as God’s faithful people in Christ Jesus.

HYMN “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Hymnal page 809, verse 2

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

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 “Lift High the Cross”

Hymnal page 837

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. [Refrain]
2. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. [Refrain]
3. All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. [Refrain]
4. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. [Refrain]
5. Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. [Refrain]
6. So shall our song of triumph ever be;
Praise to the Crucified for victory! [Refrain]

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

Copyright © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations are from the ESV Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version)
Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Pastoral Care:

Please contact –

Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613

BLESSED TO BE SERVING TODAY

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Pastor: | Pastor Frank Matthews |
| Greeter: | Sharon Corey |
| Reader: | Jo Tschopp |
| Musician: | Christine Geltz |
| Ushers: | Donald Lammerts, Dave Lassanke, and Craig Boehne |

PRAYERS OF CARE & CONCERN FOR OUR FLC FAMILY

Judy Gunther: Pray for the continue healing of her knee as she deals with the pain.

Sandy Sussman: Prayers of healing for this niece of former members, Bruce and Lynn Bertram. Sandy continues her stay in the hospital in hospice care. She remains lucid and mostly upbeat. Lynne and Bruce spend many hours each day with her and her sister keeping them company. She is ready to be with the Lord when her time comes.

Perry Singleton and Keith Edmunds: Prayers for Pastor Frank Matthews' friend and cousin.

Patricia Caballero: Prayers for this shut-in member as she deals with her upcoming surgery that is pending.

Karen Schlue & Ely Chung: Prayers of healing for these two friends of staff Elizabeth for their ongoing chronic illness struggle with cancer and tumors.



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 – AUGUST 31

Fellowship time

Bible Study and Sunday School

WEDNESDAY

12:00 noon

SEPTEMBER 3

Soup and Sandwich luncheon – Honoring National Hispanic month

FRIDAY

8:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 5

Load the van to Friends In Deed in Pasadena, CA