

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY

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FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

It's Still Christmas

December 28, 2025



AS WE GATHER

The stores are processing gift returns, but we dare not return our greatest Christmas gift—our Lord Jesus! God is gracious and forgiving, remembering His promises. He leads us, as we hear He did for the Israelites in the Old Testament Reading. We need no one else, as we are God's dear children, which Paul reminds us in the Epistle. It is not that we do not have enemies—even Joseph had to figure out what to do—but we have Jesus with us. It is still Christmas.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN

“Let All Together Praise Our God” Hymnal page 389, verses 1 to 3

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav’n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son. | 2. He leaves His heavenly Father’s throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall. |
| 3. Within an earth-born form
He hides His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might. | |

INVOCATION

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

PSALM *Psalms 111:1–6*

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

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

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

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

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

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

HYMN "Let All Together Praise Our God"

Hymnal page 389, verses 4 and 5

4. He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.

5. He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.

PSALM *Psalms 111:7–10*

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.**

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!**

HYMN "Let All Together Praise Our God"

Hymnal 389, verses 6 and 7

6. He is the key and He the door
To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

7. Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We Praise You evermore.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Galatians 4:4; Isaiah 63:14

Pastor: O Lord God, we confess that although we usually prepare for, as Paul put it, "the fullness of time," that is not true in our personal lives.

People: **Forgive our impatience for taking matters into our own hands,
forgive our not trusting that You are in control of all things, and
forgive our failing to acknowledge You above all else.**

Pastor: We confess, O Lord, that unlike obedient Joseph, we have not always listened to Your commands and instructions.

People: **Forgive our desire to be in control, forgive our avoiding difficult decisions, and forgive our thinking that we are able to arrange all things for our own benefit.**

Pastor: We confess, O Lord, that we have kept our faith to ourselves.

People: **Forgive us for not giving Your leading us “a glorious name,” forgive our failure to ask You for guidance each day, and forgive our seeking to be like everyone else, rather than trusting You.**

Pastor: Forgiveness has been won for you! The babe born in Bethlehem is the only-begotten Son of God and your elder Brother. The Spirit urges you to cry, “Abba! Father!” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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 *Jeremiah 31:15–17; antiphon: Hosea 11:1*

Pastor: When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.

People: **Thus says the LORD: “A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her | children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no
more.”**

Pastor: Thus says the LORD: “Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears,
for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD,
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.
There is hope for your future, declares the LORD,
and your children shall come back to their own country.”

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: When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

Hymnal page 386

1. Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!

2. Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee!
Draw me unto Thee!

3. Now through His Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.
Death was reigning o'er us
Through sin and vanity
Till He opened for us
A bright eternity.
May we praise Him there!
May we praise Him there!

4. Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing
In heav'nly joy and light,
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there!

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature.

People: **Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us;**

Pastor: 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

Isaiah 63:7–14

(Although the Israelites have rebelled, God will help them.)

- ⁷ I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,
the praises of the LORD,
according to all that the LORD has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel
that He has granted them according to His compassion,
according to the abundance of His steadfast love.
- ⁸ For He said, “Surely they are My people,
children who will not deal falsely.”
And He became their Savior.
- ⁹ In all their affliction He was afflicted,
and the Angel of His presence saved them;
in His love and in His pity He redeemed them;
He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.
- ¹⁰ But they rebelled
and grieved His Holy Spirit;
therefore He turned to be their enemy,
and Himself fought against them.
- ¹¹ Then he remembered the days of old,
of Moses and his people.
Where is He who brought them up out of the sea
with the shepherds of His flock?
Where is He who put in the midst of them
His Holy Spirit,
- ¹² who caused His glorious arm
to go at the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them
to make for Himself an everlasting name,
- ¹³ who led them through the depths?
Like a horse in the desert,
they did not stumble.
- ¹⁴ Like livestock that go down into the valley,
the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.
So You led Your people,
to make for Yourself a glorious name.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 111

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

Galatians 4:4–7

(All God's promises are sure because we are God's children.)

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 2:13–23*

(The holy family is protected from Herod.)

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

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

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called My son.” ¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.

¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, “Rise, take the Child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead.” ²¹ And he rose and took the Child and His mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that He would be called a Nazarene.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY “A Great and Mighty Wonder” Hymnal page 383, verses 1–3

1. A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant
With virgin honor pure!

Refrain:
Proclaim the Savior's birth:
"To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!"

2. The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky. [Refrain]

3. While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
And oceans, clap your hands. [Refrain]

CHILDREN / YOUTHFUL MINISTRY MOMENT

SERMON

CATECHISM

The Second Article

People: I believe 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.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord,

who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us go to our heavenly Father in prayer.

For the church, that the news of Christ's birth among us would bring joy to many people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who have rebelled against all that our caring God has lavished upon them and that He would open their hearts and minds, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who have not heard about Jesus' birth, about our Savior's willingness to be a servant of the Most High, or about their own salvation, that God would surround them with people of faith and the Gospel Good News, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all who tend fields, raise animals, distribute food, or work in supermarkets and roadside stands, that they recognize that they work to alleviate hunger and do what pleases our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the leaders of the nations, those who bear arms, and all who run toward harm to help those who need aid and rescue, that they stop at nothing to establish and maintain peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those near and dear to us, that God would alleviate suffering and pain, sadness and grief in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of our elder Brother and Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Hymnal page 393

1. Infant holy, Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing,
Little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging,
Angels singing,
Bells are ringing,
Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

2. Flocks were sleeping,
Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory,
Heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing,
Free from sorrow,
Praises voicing,
Greet the morrow: Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

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

“Let us All with Gladsome Voice”

Hymnal page 390

1. Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son hath given.

3. We are rich, for He was poor;
Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder.

2. To this vale of tears He comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'ns fair homes
We may reign in gladness.

4. Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,
Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thank be to God!

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: Pastor Frank Matthews

Greeter: Norma Boehne

Reader: Christine Geltz

Musician: Christine Geltz

Ushers: Donald Lammerts, Dave Lassanke, and Craig Boehne

PRAYERS OF CARE & CONCERN FOR OUR FLC FAMILY

Bruce & Lynn Bertram: Prayers for these former members as they deal with their grief upon the passing of their niece, Sandi Sussman.

Monica Ganas: Please continue to extend prayers and her family for their unexpected loss, and the dealing with their grief, especially during this time of the year.

Judy Gunther: Please extend healing prayer for her as she has broken her hip.

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.

Perry Singleton, Jan and Keith Edmunds: More prayers for Pastor Frank Matthews' friends and cousin as they continue to 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: Please pray for his family during their time of grief. Pray also for Penny (Gregg's sister-in-law), as well.



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Sharon Corey

December 28

Judy Gunther

December 28

THANK YOU CARD FROM MONICA GANAS

"I am deeply grateful to those who signed the Sympathy card for Scotty. I would like to express my deepest thanks, and it was so touching!

It was also wonderful to receive other individual cards from Temple City members, including Jo & Kathy. Best of all, it was great to see so many of you at Scotty's service! You are a true blessing, Monica."



Sunday Worship at Home

Although the Lutheran Hour no longer airs on KBRT 740 AM, you can find other airings at:

lh.m.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 28

Fellowship time

Bible Study and Sunday School

FRIDAY

8:00 a.m.

JANUARY 2, 2026

Load the van to Friends In Deed – Pasadena, CA

SATURDAY

8:00 a.m.

JANUARY 3, 2026

Volunteers at Friends In Deed – Pasadena, CA

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*

