

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY

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ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Finding God's Favor

August 24, 2025



AS WE GATHER

To be the “favorite child” in a family is often a source of competition and sometimes a source for comedy. Years ago, a pair of sibling entertainers, the Smothers Brothers, made their family relationship a staple of their onstage humor when Tom, the older brother, would remind Dickie, the younger, “Mom always did like you best.” As we gather with God’s people at worship week by week, we can be certain that our gracious God values all of us and is pleased to see us grow in grace year by year. The psalmist wrote that “the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor” (Psalm 84:11). In the same Psalm 84 is the verse where the psalmist exclaims to God, “For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere” (v. 10). There is nothing better than for God’s favorite people, which we are, to be gathered in a most favorite place—which this is! It doesn’t get any better than that!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN “This is My Father’s World”

The world is Mine and the fullness thereof. Psalm 50:12 (part of today’s readings)

This is my Father’s world, And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings The music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father’s world, O let me ne’er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world: The battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heav’n be one.

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 103:1–2, 8, 13, 21–22*

Pastor: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

People: **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.**

Pastor: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.

People: **The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Pastor: Bless the LORD, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will!

People: **Bless the LORD, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!**



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord, and grant us Your forgiveness. We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of our sins, those known to us and those unknown as well. Create in us clean hearts, gracious Lord, and put new and right spirits within us that we may be reconciled to You and at peace with all people. We trust in Christ alone for the forgiveness that we seek today and at all times. Give us the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us into paths of righteousness and finally bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. 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.

☩ WORD ☩

INTROIT *Psalm 117; antiphon: Psalm 96:6a; 115:18*

Pastor: But we will bless the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore.

People: Splendor and majesty are before Him;
strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

Pastor: Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol Him, all peoples!
For great is His steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

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: But we will bless the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore.

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.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 66:18–23

(The glory of the Lord shall be declared.)

¹⁸ “For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see My glory, ¹⁹ and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard My fame or seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the nations. ²⁰ And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries,

to My holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. ²¹ And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

²² “For as the new heavens and the new earth
that I make
shall remain before Me, says the LORD,
so shall your offspring and your name remain.

²³ From new moon to new moon,
and from Sabbath to Sabbath,
all flesh shall come to worship before Me,
declares the LORD.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalms 50:1–15*

People: **The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.**

Women: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. Our God comes; He does not keep silence; before Him is a devouring fire, around Him a mighty tempest.

Men: He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that He may judge His people: “Gather to Me My faithful ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!”

People: **The heavens declare His righteousness, for God Himself is judge!**

Women: “Hear, O My people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God. Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before Me.

Men: I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds. For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is Mine.

Women: “If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are Mine.

Men: Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?

People: **Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.” 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.**

(An exhortation to faithful, peaceful living.)

⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the LORD,
nor be weary when reproved by Him.

⁶ For the LORD disciplines the one He loves,
and chastises every son whom He receives.”

⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. ¹² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears. ¹⁸ For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰ For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the Mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. ²⁵ See that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused Him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject Him who warns from heaven. ²⁶ At that time His voice shook the earth, but now He has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” ²⁷ This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 13:22–30*

(Jesus shares insights into His kingdom that is to come.)

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

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

²² [Jesus] went on His way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³ And someone said to Him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And He said to them, ²⁴ “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵ When once the Master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then He will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ ²⁶ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.’ ²⁷ But He will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from Me, all you workers of evil!’ ²⁸ In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. ²⁹ And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

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, 2, 4, and 6

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.

4. Lord, I believe, were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.

6. Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

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 pray for the whole people of God in Jesus Christ and for all people according to their needs.

Pastor: We pray for the whole church throughout the world that, as people united in faith and active in love, we may witness to the Good News that is ours in Christ Jesus. We pray for all nations of the earth, that in those places where strife and discord rule there may be times of peace and reconciliation, and we pray for our own nation that it may be an ensign of hope.

People: **O Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We bring our special petitions today to God's throne of grace as we pray for our families, thanking God for the blessings that are received from caring parents, grandparents, public service, emergency workers, and caregivers who intersect with our lives. We thank God, our heavenly Father, for listening to our petitions and responding to them.

People: **O Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for the varied situations of daily life in which we are placed, especially in our workplaces and neighborhoods, that we may be peace bringers in all our actions and words. We pray for the special needs of this day, remembering those who are ill and those who mourn, and for all those matters on our hearts currently.

For all those saints who have completed their earthly journeys in faith and have left us a legacy of love, we thank You, Lord, and faithfully commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Take My Life and Let It Be” Hymnal page 783, verses 1, and 4 to 6

1. Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

5. Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

4. Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

6. Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

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 “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

Hymnal page 851

1. Lord of Glory, You have bought us
With Your life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil
With Your own unsparing hand.

2. Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You
Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.

3. Wondrous honor You have given
To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence,
"You have done it all to Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master,
That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy,
"Give as I have giv'n to you"?

4. Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly,
Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces,
With Your love our love renew.

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

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Pastoral Care:

Please contact –

Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613



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

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.

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

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

Tom Ravo's family: Tom passed away August 9. Tom, his wife Susan and their children were active at First Lutheran School. Pray for God's peace and their comfort as they mourn Tom's passing. Pray that details that need attention after a death be easy, pray for wisdom as they face the future without Tom. Pray that his passing will draw the family and others to a closer relationship with God.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus Judy Gunther: Pray for the continue healing of her knee as she deals with the pain.

CHILDREN IN OUR WORSHIP

We welcome all the children in our worship today. "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them!" Jesus told His disciples. In the church's worship, there is a special place of welcome for these "little ones who believe in Me."





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.

11:00 a.m.

TODAY – AUGUST 24

Fellowship time

Bible Study and Sunday School

Board of Directors meeting

