

*Sharing the Bread of Life*  
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

May 22, 2022

10:30 AM



*Worship Leaders for Today:*

Presiding Minister: Kim Beckmann

Cantor: Paul Rupprecht

Assisting Minister: Betty Johnson

Co-Host: Janice Skillen

Tech Deacon: Dana Johnston

Sacristan: The Johnstons

## **Introduction to the Day**

Visions and a renewal of creation abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be when heaven comes to earth and the eternal city is founded beside the tree of life. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

### **First Reading:** Acts 16:9-15

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece, and to a gathering of believers “down by the river”. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

### **Second Reading:** Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5

John’s vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God’s past actions. Yet in this new city, God’s presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon. The tree of life provides healing for all the nations and the clean clear river flows by the throne of God. Creation is restored!

### **Gospel:** John 14:23-29

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus’ followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

## **Friends in Christ, Past and Present**

### **Tuesday, May 24, 2022**

#### **Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783; scientists**

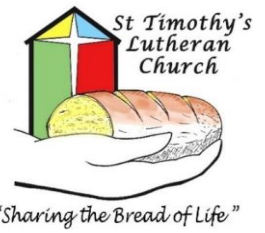
These two men were both scientists who helped to explain the wonders of God's universe. Copernicus is best known for promoting the idea that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of our solar system. Euler was one of the founders of pure mathematics, and contributed to many other fields.

### **Friday, May 27, 2022**

#### **John Calvin, renewer of the church, died 1564**

Gifted both as a systematic theologian and as an interpreter of scriptures, Calvin embraced the Reformation, and as a preacher in Geneva, Switzerland, brought a theocratic government to it. He is regarded as the father of the Reformed churches.

# Sixth Sunday of Easter – Blessing of Gardens



WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**ALL: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In the waters of baptism,  
we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ,  
and we are a new creation.  
For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We thank you, God, for your river of life,  
flowing freely from your throne:  
through the earth,  
through the city,  
through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;  
You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.  
Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,  
and our sin is drowned forever.  
You open the gate of righteousness  
and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.  
You nourish us and enclose us in safety.  
You call us forth and send us out.  
In lush and barren places, you are with us.  
You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water  
and awaken your church once more.  
Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.  
Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End,  
our Shepherd and Lamb,  
be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving,  
now and forever.

**ALL: Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG: #377 Alleluia! Jesus is risen! (v. 4)**

<b>4</b> Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:	Refrain
death put asunder, and Easter is bright.	Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!	Give God the glory! Alleluia!
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light	

**GREETING**

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**ALL: And also with you.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE: #380 Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! v. 5**

Hallelujah! Angels sing!  
Join with us in hymns of praise.  
Let your chorus swell the strain  
Which our feebler voices raise:  
Glory to our God above  
And on earth his peace and love!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Let us pray.

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**ALL: Amen.**

**THE WORD**

**FIRST READING: Acts 16:9-15**

<sup>9</sup>During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup>When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup>We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup>and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup>On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup>A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup>When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

**PSALM: 67**

May God be merciful to us and bless us;

**may the light of God's face shine upon us.**

Let your way be known upon earth,

**your saving health among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

**let all the peoples praise you.**

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

**for you judge the peoples with equity, and guide all the nations on earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

**let all the peoples praise you.**

The earth has brought forth its increase;

**God, our own God, has blessed us.**

May God give us blessing,

**and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.**

**SECOND READING: Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5**

<sup>10</sup>And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

<sup>22</sup>I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup>And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup>The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup>Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup>People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup>But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

<sup>22:1</sup>Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup>they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

**GOSPEL: John 14:23-29**

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** The holy gospel according to John.

**ALL: Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup>Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup>"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup>You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup>And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** This is the Gospel of the Lord,

**ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## INTERACTIVE TIME: BLESSING OF SOIL, SEED, WATER AND OUR GARDENS AND GARDENERS

### *Prayer for Seeds (hold seed aloft)*

Creating God, you have given seed for the sower and bread to the people.

**Nourish, protect, and bless the seeds which your people are sowing in hope.**

By your loving and bountiful giving, may they bring forth their fruit in due season, through the one who rose up from the dead and shares with us the bread of life, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### *Prayer for the Soil (hold soil aloft)*

Giver of life, we give you thanks that in the richness of the soil. Nature awakens your call to spring.

**We praise you for the smell of freshly tilled earth, the beauty of a cleanly cut furrow, and a well-prepared garden.**

**We ask that you help us to be good stewards of the land.**

Bless the soil that nurtures the seed, and the hands that work it, in the name of the one who gives us new life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### *Prayer for Water and Rain (hold water aloft)*

Sustaining God, we receive the fruits of the earth from you.

**We give you thanks for the smell of the earth after rain, for its welcome cooling, and its necessary hydration for the land.**

**We ask that the rain come as often as it is needed so that crops may flourish and the coming harvest be bountiful.**

In the name of the one who has led us to the rivers and healing waters of life, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### *Prayer for Gardeners and our Tools of the Trade (hold your gardening implements aloft)*

God in whose creating and sustaining image we are created and sustained, bless all farmers and gardeners.

**We lift up the tools of our trade and the work of our hands to you.**

**Bless us as we work the soil, plant the seeds, and water our plants.**

We pray this in the name of the one whom Mary supposed was a gardener outside the tomb that first Easter day, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### *Prayer for it Coming Together in our Butterfly and Community Food Gardens, the “inside out” church*

God of Easter’s new life and abundance, we bless the bees and butterflies as a sign of your harmonious and productive community of faith in the church and for the gifts of pollination that spreads life, goodness and fertility across the land.

**We see in these creatures a sign of resurrection hope and abundance to share with our neighborhood.**

**Bless our new ministry with such new life.**

**Give us willing hands and the desire to tend these gardens in ways that allow us reach out to neighbors and partners to make connections that build community.**

We dedicate this new ministry in the name of the one who like a seed that has fallen to the earth and died, only to rise in abundance for the sake of the world and for the sake of love, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**SUNG BLESSING: To Bless the Earth (tune #539)**

From *The New Music Version of the Psalms, 1909* Author not given.

To bless the earth God sends us  
from heav'n's abundant store  
the waters of the springtime,  
enriching it once more.

The seed by God provided  
is sown o'er hill and plain,  
and then come gentle showers  
to bless the springing grain.

With grain the fields are covered;  
the flocks in pastures graze;  
all nature joins in singing  
a joyful song of praise.

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: #631 Love divine, all loves excelling (v. 1)**

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.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Please feel free to unmute yourselves to join in these prayers of the people. Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of new life, open your church to unexpected ways your Spirit is at work. Guide St Timothy's and the work of our call committee in visioning, partnership, and planning. Surround us with peace. God, in your mercy,

**Receive our prayer.**

Give a vision of increase and abundant harvest for farmers, laborers, and gardeners who are beginning their growing season. Join their efforts with the goodness of creation to feed all living things. God, in your mercy,

**Receive our prayer.**

Shine your light of wisdom and peace among nations, especially in bringing an end to the aggression in Ukraine. When those in power seek to assert dominance over others, confound their ways and make them yield to your humble authority. God, in your mercy,

**Receive our prayer.**

Convict hearts in our own nation and faith communities to rise up against the violence and destruction of racism, and the structures and laws that support white supremacy. Create places filled with hospitality where hurting people find your loving presence and wholeness. Give safe haven to those who seek healing, liberation, or peace especially: *(pause as members of the community name those in need of God's clear presence)*

God, in your mercy,  
**Receive our prayer.**

Uphold the work of ministries and organizations in our communities who assist people experiencing homelessness, citizens returning from prison, and all marginalized people especially the Interfaith Action of Evanston. Accomplish your will through their efforts. Bless our team, sharing your bread of life, as we prepare for our sack lunch and clothing distribution this week. God, in your mercy,

**Receive our prayer.**

And for what else do the people of God assembled here pray or give thanks?

*(pause as members of the community raise thanks and concerns either muted or unmuted)*

God, in your mercy,  
**Receive our prayer.**

Assemble your people at rivers, streams, and fonts, where we remember our baptism and welcome others into the communion of saints. Gather us with those who have died especially:

*(pause as members of the community raise up the names of the blessed dead in whose communion we remain)*

Bring us to a day of rejoicing when we meet together at your river of life. God, in your mercy,

**Receive our prayer.**

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**ALL: Amen.**

**PEACE**

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**OFFERING AND OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

*In thanksgiving for all God has given us we offer the first fruits of our labors for the mission of the church and the care of those in need. Mailed to St. Timothy's at 9000 Kildare Ave, Skokie, Il. 60076.*

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** We worship God with our offering.

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to all be blessed.

**ALL: Feed us with your living bread, that all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.**

## **EUCCHARIST**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE: EASTER

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** Holy, living, and loving God,  
we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,  
for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,  
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus  
who, living among us,  
healed the sick,  
fed the hungry,  
and with a love stronger than death,  
gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,  
we await your promised life for all this dying world.  
And for this we pray: Come, Lord Jesus!

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:  
carry us in your arms from death to life,  
that we may live as your chosen ones,  
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.  
And for this we pray: Come, Holy Spirit!

**Come, Holy Spirit!**

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**ALL: Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**ALL: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

#### **COMMUNION**

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** This is the body of Christ, given for you.

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

#### **TABLE DISMISSAL**

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in God's grace.

**ALL: Amen**

#### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** We give you thanks, generous God,  
for in this bread and cup  
we have tasted the new heaven and earth  
where hunger and thirst are no more.  
Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,  
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

**ALL: Amen.**

#### **BENEDICTION**

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** God, the Author of life,  
Christ, the living Cornerstone,  
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✝ bless you now and forever.

**ALL: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: #763 My life flows on in endless song (v. 4)**

**4** The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing?

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **DISMISSAL**

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**ALL: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** Variation on "To bless the earth God sends us" - Joh. Gottfr. Walther

## IN OUR PRAYERS

**You are invited to pray for those listed throughout the week using this or another prayer:**

Living God, grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing, especially (*Speak names here*). When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Sunday

Lauren Presburg, Caitlin Presburg, David Nygard, Jim Nelson, John and Nancy Lang, Jonathan Steiner, The Family of Kenneth Johnston The Family of Dennis Davis  
Paul Luke, Phillip DeRosa, Louise Nygard

### Monday

Esther Hildner  
Elizabeth Stanley  
Gina Topor

### Tuesday

Janet Johnson  
Susan Jensen  
Janet Mladic

### Wednesday

Elaine Morgan  
John Fergus

### Thursday

Christine Haerberlin  
Bobby Scott

### Friday

Jim Henderson  
Richard Hobbs

### Saturday

Nancy Whitney  
Liam Hansen

**NOTE: We are happy to include friends and loved ones. Please contact the church office to renew or add a prayer request, or to let us know it is time for a prayer of thanksgiving.**

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**THIS WEEK AT ST. TIMOTHY'S, MAY 22<sup>ND</sup> TO MAY 28<sup>TH</sup>**

Sunday      10:30am      Worship  
                 11:30am      Fellowship

Monday      Pastor Kim Day Off

Tuesday

Wednesday 6:30pm      Midweek Bible and Life Discussions

Thursday

Friday      9:30am      Sack Lunch

Saturday

**Assisting Minister(s)**      Betty Johnson  
**Co-Host**                              Janice Skillen

**NEXT WEEK AT ST. TIMOTHY'S, MAY 29<sup>TH</sup> TO JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>**

Sunday      10:30am      Worship  
                 11:30am      Fellowship

Monday      Office Closed for Memorial Day Weekend

Tuesday

Wednesday 6:30pm      Midweek Bible and Life Discussions

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**Assisting Minister(s)**      Nancy Crivello  
**Co-Host**                              Joanne Haeberlin