

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY**

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**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

We Can't Wait

May 25, 2025



**AS WE GATHER**

It is almost the end of the Easter Season, and we would like it to continue. The non-festival half of the Church Year doesn't seem as, well, festive. But listen to the Readings! There are people, like Paul in the Reading from Acts, who need support today. And Lydia is an example of a new Christian, ready to help. The vision in Revelation showed John's readers the perfect city, ready to welcome all whose names are in the Book of Life (that's us)! We can hardly wait to get there.

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### **HYMN**      “God Himself Is Present”

Hymnal page 907, verses 1 and 2

**1.** God Himself is present:  
Let us now adore Him  
And with awe appear before Him.  
God is in His temple;  
All within keep silence;  
Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.  
He alone  
On His throne  
Is our God and Savior;  
Praise His Name forever!

**2.** God himself is present:  
Hear the harps resounding;  
See the hosts the throne surrounding.  
"Holy, Holy, Holy!"  
Hear the hymn ascending,  
Songs of saints and angels blending.  
Bow Your ear  
To us here:  
Hear, O Christ, the praises  
That Your church now raises.

### **INVOCATION**

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

**People:**      **Amen.**

### **OPENING SENTENCES**

*Revelation 21:9–10, 23; John 16:24*

**Pastor:**      Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.

**People:**      **He showed me the holy city Jerusalem.**

**Pastor:**      The city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it,

**People:**      **for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.**

**Pastor:**      Ask, and you will receive,

**People:**      **that your joy may be full.**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*John 16:33*

**Pastor:**      Let us ask God for forgiveness and guidance.

**People:**      **At times, O Lord, it feels like You have left us and gone into heaven, leaving us to fend for ourselves. We confess that we fail to remember Your word of promise about Your presence with us and Your love for us. We fear what might happen, and we regularly face our own desires and temptations. We forget that You “have overcome the world.” Forgive us and renew in us strong faith in Your presence and protection.**

Pastor: God has not left us alone. Christ is with us, and He has broken every barrier between us and the promised Jerusalem awaiting us. As a called and ordained servant of 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 ☩

**HYMN** "With the Lord Begin Your Task"

Hymnal page 869, verses 1 to 4

1. With the Lord begin your task;  
Jesus will direct it.  
For His aid and counsel ask;  
Jesus will perfect it.  
Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise,  
And when day is ended,  
In His name then close your eyes;  
Be to Him commended.

3. With your Savior at your side,  
Foes need not alarm you;  
In His promises confide,  
And no ill can harm you.  
All your trust and hope repose  
In the Mighty Master,  
Who in wisdom truly knows  
How to stem disaster.

2. Let each day begin with prayer,  
Praise, and adoration.  
On the Lord cast ev'ry care;  
He is your salvation.  
Morning, evening, and at night  
Jesus will be near you,  
Save you from the tempter's might,  
With His presence cheer you.

4. If your task be thus begun  
With the Savior's blessing,  
Safely then your course will run,  
Toward the promise pressing.  
Good will follow ev'rywhere  
While you here must wander;  
You at last the joy will share  
In the mansions yonder.

## SUFFRAGES

*Psalm 88:13; 51:12; 71:8; 145:2; 65:5; 103:1, 4; 102:1*

Pastor: I cry to You, O Lord;

People: **in the morning my prayer comes before You.**

Pastor: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

People: **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

Pastor: My mouth is filled with Your praise,

People: **and with Your glory all the day.**

Pastor: Every day I will bless You

People: **and praise Your name forever and ever.**

Pastor: By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness,  
**People: O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas.**

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
**People: and all that is within me, bless His holy name!**

Pastor: He redeems your life from the pit  
**People: and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.**

Pastor: Hear my prayer, O Lord;  
**People: let my cry come to You.**

**HYMN** "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen" Hymnal page 474, verses 1, 2, 4, and 5

**1.** Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!  
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever!  
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

**2.** Walking the way, Christ in the center  
Telling the story to open our eyes;  
Breaking our bread, Giving us glory:  
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

**4.** Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent:  
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.  
Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!"  
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

**5.** City of God, Easter forever,  
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,  
River of life, Saints and archangels,  
Sing with creation to God the I AM!  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

## **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.  
O God, the giver of all that is good,  
**People: by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are  
right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them;**  
Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**People: Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Acts 16:9–15*

(Paul goes to Macedonia and baptizes Lydia.)

<sup>9</sup> And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup> And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. <sup>11</sup> So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and 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 some days. <sup>13</sup> And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. <sup>14</sup> One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM *Psalm 67; antiphon: v. 3*

**67** <sup>1</sup> May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make His face to shine upon us,  
<sup>2</sup> that Your way may be known on earth,  
Your saving power among all nations.  
<sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
let all the peoples praise You!  
<sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for You judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth.  
<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
let all the peoples praise You!  
<sup>6</sup> The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, shall bless us.  
<sup>7</sup> God shall bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth fear Him!

## **EPISTLE**      *Revelation 21:9–14, 21–27*

(John sees the heavenly Jerusalem.)

<sup>9</sup> Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” <sup>10</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, <sup>11</sup> having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup> It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— <sup>13</sup> on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. <sup>14</sup> And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. <sup>21</sup> And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. <sup>22</sup> And 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 gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, <sup>25</sup> and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

**Reader:**      This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**      **Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**      *John 16:23–33*

(Jesus prepares the disciples for His leaving them.)

**Pastor:**      The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter.

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

<sup>23</sup> In that day you will ask nothing of Me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He will give it to you. <sup>24</sup> Until now You have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and You will receive, that Your joy may be full. <sup>25</sup> “I have said these things to You in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to You in figures of speech but will tell You plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to You that I will ask the Father on your behalf; <sup>27</sup> for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup> I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

<sup>29</sup> His disciples said, "Ah, now You are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! <sup>30</sup> Now we know that You know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that You came from God." <sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup> Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave Me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with Me. <sup>33</sup> I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

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

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

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice"

Hymnal page 556, verses 1, 2, 4, and 6

**1.** Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,  
With exultation springing,  
And with united heart and voice  
And holy rapture singing,  
Proclaim the wonders God has done,  
How His right arm the vict'ry won,  
What price our ransom cost Him!

**2.** Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;  
Death brooded darkly o'er me.  
Sin was my torment night and day;  
In sin my mother bore me.  
But daily deeper still I fell;  
My life became a living hell,  
So firmly sin possessed me.

**4.** But God had seen my wretched state  
Before the world's foundation,  
And mindful of His mercies great,  
He planned for my salvation.  
He turned to me a father's heart;  
He did not choose the easy part  
But gave His dearest treasure.

**6.** The Son obeyed His Father's will,  
Was born of virgin mother;  
And God's good pleasure to fulfill,  
He came to be my brother.  
His royal pow'r disguised He bore;  
A servant's form, like mine, He wore  
To lead the devil captive.

## **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:**     Let us pray for all people, for the church, and for ourselves.  
                  Hear our prayer, heavenly Father, for we ask this in Jesus' name: Visit and  
                  relieve those many people who are denied what they need in food, clothing,  
                  or shelter. Grant relief to those languishing because of injustice or  
                  oppression. Surround the poor, sick, and dying with people to care for their  
                  various needs. Open doors of opportunity for faith-filled brothers and sisters  
                  in Christ that they may care for the physical, social, and spiritual needs of  
                  people around them with Your protection and guidance.

**People:**     **Hear our prayer and answer, that our joy may be full.**

**Pastor:**     Hear our prayer, heavenly Father, for we are as children, only asking for  
                  what You deem best. Listen to our deep longings, our unspoken yearning,  
                  and the circumstances of our own lives. In Your mercy and love, assure us  
                  of Your presence despite whatever ills we might have. Be with those near  
                  and dear to us who call out for healing, strength, and comfort. Assure them  
                  of Your presence even now.

**People:**     **Hear our prayer and answer, that our joy may be full.**



**Pastor:** We give thanks, heavenly Father, for the faith Your Holy Spirit has placed within us. We know the promise of heaven and long for the new Jerusalem. We, like John, look forward to that new Jerusalem, and like Lydia, have heard the Good News of our Savior and rejoice. We are confident that Your ears are open to our requests for ourselves, our circle of friends and family, and all the faithful who gather with us. Answer our prayers as fits Your plans for us, the church around the world, and all people in their various circumstances.

**People:** **Hear our prayer and answer, that our joy may be full.**

**Pastor:** We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**      “Sing to the Lord of Harvest”      Hymnal page 893, verses 2 and 3

**2.** God makes the clouds rain goodness,  
The deserts bloom and spring.  
The hills leap up in gladness,  
The valleys laugh and sing.  
God fills them with His fullness,  
All things with large increase;  
He crowns the year with blessing,  
With plenty and with peace.

**3.** Bring to this sacred altar  
The gifts His goodness gave,  
The golden sheaves of harvest,  
The souls Christ died to save.  
Your hearts lay down before Him  
When at His feet you fall,  
And with your lives adore Him  
Who gave His life for all.

**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

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**      “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”      Hymnal page 917

1. Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise  
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;  
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,  
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.

2. Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;  
With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.  
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

3. Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;  
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.  
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;  
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

4. Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,  
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;  
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2.  
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## DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

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Pastoral Care:  
Please contact –  
Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613

## **BLESSED TO BE SERVING TODAY**

Pastor: Reverend Gregory Otte  
Greeter: Norma Boehne  
Reader: Christine Geltz  
Musician: Christine Geltz  
Ushers: Craig Boehne, Donald Lammerts, & Dave Lassanske

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

Pray for those that were adversely affected by natural disasters.

Judy Gunther: Please pray for healing of her knee as she deals with the pain.

Monica Ganas: Please pray for an uneventful knee replacement surgery.

**APPRECIATION**: We would like to extend our thanks to Reverend Gregory Otte in helping us again with the worship today.



### **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 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 – MAY 25**

Fellowship time

Bible Study and Sunday School

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT WEEK**

### **SUNDAY**

9:30 a.m.

9:45 a.m.

### **JUNE 1**

Fellowship time

Bible Study and Sunday School

### **WEDNESDAY**

12:00 noon

### **JUNE 4**

First Wednesday Soup and Sandwich

### **FRIDAY**

8:30 a.m.

### **JUNE 6**

Load the van to Friends In Deed



## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Board of Directors' Nominating Committee is now accepting names of members who would be interested in actively participating in our church's present and future plans for the year 2025 to 2026. See Connie Kean, Dave Lassanske or Norma Boehne if you would like your name to be included on the ballot.

