St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 21, 2017

The Holy Spirit's Voice is as loud as your willingness to listen.

Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister

408 S. Davidson Street  | Karnes City, TX 78118
Office (830) 780-2251    Pastor Dorn (602) 565-9793
www.StPaulsLutheranKC.org
www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranKarnesCity
Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Jesus does not leave his followers orphaned. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord’s table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

The assembly shall kneel as they are able.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. Amen

The assembly stands.

GATHERING SONG (ELW p. 408) Come, Thou Almighty King

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. 1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. 2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. 3 Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. 4 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Todopoderoso y Dios siempre vivo, tienes a todas las cosas en el cielo y en la tierra. En su gran misericordia recibe las oraciones de sus hijos y dar a todo el mundo el espíritu de la verdad y la paz, a través de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y Señor, que vive y reina contigo y el Espíritu Santo, un solo Dios, ahora y para siempre. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

22 Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him—and indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’

29 Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20

R Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

8 Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.
9 Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip. R

10 For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.
11 You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens on our backs.
12 You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

13 I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—
14 those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
15 I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats. R

16 Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.
17 I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.
18 If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;
19 but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.
20 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me. R

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Christians have a zeal for doing what is right in God’s eyes no matter what the circumstances because in baptism we are saved and made alive. Thus our Christian beliefs and behavior are to be a matter of public record just as our baptism is.

13 Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? 14 But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, 15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; 16 yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. 18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20 who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. 21 And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
Glory to you, O Lord.

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

Jesus said to the disciples: 15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

18 “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ!

The assembly is seated.
The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 805) Lead On, O King Eternal!

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church. Draw your whole church together as one. Bring an end to division. Send your Spirit into your people and rouse us to greater love and mission. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
For the earth. For scientists, photographers, and explorers. For scholars, poets, musicians, artists, and all who lead us to greater knowledge and appreciation of beauty. For lakes and rivers, watersheds and wetlands, ponds and oceans. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the nations. Give wisdom to those who govern. Strengthen all who work for peace. Protect those who have been displaced or have left their homes in search of safety and freedom. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those in need. For those who suffer abuse or neglect. For those who suffer post-traumatic stress. For those who struggle with addiction. For those who grieve and all who are ill especially Pauline, Shane, Linda, Norma, Ann, Lorene, Steve, Francis, Carol, Ella, Emil, Alfred, Charles, Eli, Steve, Hope, Tom, Bo, Leroy, Rose, Lawrence, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Bless those preparing for baptism and affirmation of baptism. Strengthen our ministries of evangelism, outreach, and pastoral care. Deepen our faith and knowledge of you. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith and those who have borne witness to your love, especially Helena, the mother of Constantine. Bring us with them to dwell with you forever. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*Peace is shared among the assembly, and then the assembly is seated.*

MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

*The assembly stands.*

OFFERING HYMN (ELW 182) *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*
OFFERING PRAYER

Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD’S PRAYER

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

The assembly joins hands to pray:

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

No matter what you have done or your situation, Christ invites, to His table, all who love Him and earnestly repent of their sin and who seek to live in peace with one another. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.
Following Communion, the assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, you journey with us in all the seasons of our lives. Wash us through and through --heart, body, and mind-- that we may be wholly refreshed by the healing power of your love, and live hereafter as witnesses who incarnate justice for all creatures on earth. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Will you help with the purchase of a new organ? The Church Council is requesting donations to offset the cost of the replacement organ. We have received some monetary gifts, but there is a shortfall of approximately $15,000. If you would like to contribute, please write “organ” on the MEMO line of your check.

Lay Readers for May & June

May 28 – Shelley Gibbens       June 4 – Sandra Dickens
SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

The assembly stands.

BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN (ELW p. 545)  Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve all in need.

DOXOLOGY (ELW p. 884)  Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

The assembly is seated.

FOR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

Ill or Injured


For those in the military

Nick Adams, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Taylor Griffin, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Michael Rosales, James Skinner, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva.

Birthday

Helen Grimm (May 25)
WELCOME!

We have all come to St. Paul’s by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul’s. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us.

**Communion and Visitor Registration Cards** are located in the pew racks. We ask that each member and visitor complete a Communion Card when communing, and visitors complete a Visitor card. Completed cards may be placed in the offering plate as it is passed.

**A Nursery** is located at the rear of the sanctuary in the overflow area.

**If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance**, please signal an usher.

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**PEACE For Racial Justice Team**
**of the Southwestern Texas Synod**

Invites You to the Screening of

**“HARVEST OF EMPIRE”**

A Documentary
On the impact of the United States Decisions in History and the Immigration Crisis being faced today

**COME AND LEARN:** This is a powerful documentary that exposes the direct connection between the long history of U.S. intervention in Latin America and the immigration crisis we face today. From the territorial expansionist policies that decimated the young economies of Mexico, Puerto Rico and Cuba, to the covert operations that imposed oppressive military regimes in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador, Harvest of Empire provides an unflinching look at the origins of the growing Latino presence in the United States. Adapted from the landmark book written by journalist Juan Gonzalez, the film tells the story of an epic human saga that is largely unknown to the great majority of citizens in the U.S., but must become part of our national conversation about immigration.

- Written by Anonymous

**Showings** - **Sunday May 21, 2017**

Triumphant Love Lutheran Church
9508 Great Hills Trail,
Austin, TX 78759-7290

Galilee Lutheran Church at NOON
3321 Cimarron Blvd.
Corpus Christi, TX 78414-3014

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
610 Avalon Street
San Antonio, TX 78213-4019

**Sunday, June 11, 2017**

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
1105 W. Fern Avenue
McAllen, TX 78501-3930

**Date and Location TBA**

St. Luke-Goliad/Zion (Arneckville)
509 Zion Cemetery Road
Cuero, TX 77954-6660