Gathering

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

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ’s presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

Amen.

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. Just as God’s work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life:

for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place:

for water from our tap, and for rain.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

We give you thanks for your salvation through water:

for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman’s thirst with living water.

We give you thanks for your salvation through water.

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized, and for all who gather here; for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus’ death through these waters, for our new birth into a life of freedom and service, for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.
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.

KYRIE (ELW page 175 in Setting 7, at the front of the hymnal)

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW page 177 in Setting 7, at the front of the hymnal)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord’s resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dios Todopoderoso, con gozo celebramos el día de la resurrección de nuestro Señor. Por la gracia de Cristo entre nosotros, nos permite mostrar el poder de la resurrección en todo lo que decimos y hacemos, por medio de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y Señor, que vive y reina con usted y el Espíritu Santo, un Dios, ahora y para siempre. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Word

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


While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35 They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.
RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 133

1 How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

2 It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe. R

3 It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
   For there the Lord has commanded the blessing: life forevermore. R

SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ’s death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God’s light.

1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—
2 this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—
3 we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.
5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.
6 If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true;
7 but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
9 If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;
2 and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.
Glory to You, O Lord!

The story of Easter continues as the risen Lord appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

19When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." 24But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." 26A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." 28Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29Jesus said to him, "Have you
believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” 30Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Rev. Craig Sagebiel

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

(ELW p. 385) Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Singe!

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

Holy God, you speak peace in the presence of fear. Give us courage to testify to your grace with our lives. Embolden prophets, preachers, and teachers to speak your truth. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
Holy God, you create peace in the midst of chaos. Where storms rage and winds howl, bring calm. Protect people and animals from the dangers of weather. Restore damaged lands and homes. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, you are peace in a violent world. Heal neighborhoods ravaged by crime. Reconcile political factions at war. Build relationships where suspicion keeps us apart, and bring us to the day of unity. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, you bring peace to a hurting world. Fill the stomachs of the hungry. Bind up the shattered. Give rest to the weary and hope to the disillusioned. Restore the sick especially for Elvira, Alex, James, Lorain, Pauline, Roxanne, Shane, Linda, Norma, Ann, Laquita, Brenda, Helen, Linda, Jack, Michael, Raymond, Steve, Evalina, Francis, Barbara, Ella, Khloe, Jim, Charles, Marlane, Yvonne, Anyemarie, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, you breathe your Spirit of peace into us. Enlivened by the Spirit, equip us to bring new life to all we meet in our work and in our play. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, you are our peace in this world and the next. Comfort all who mourn. Hold them in your tender care. Bring us all around the table as we share the heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you

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 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:

Santo, santo, santo, es el Señor.
Holy, holy, holy Lord...

Dios del universo; santo es el Señor.
God of might and power; holy is the Lord.

Ho- san - na en el cielo, ho - san - na en la tierra.
Ho- san - na in the highest, ho- san - na here on earth.

Ben - di - to el que viene en el nombre del Señor.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tierra.
Ho - san - na in the highest, ho- san - na here on earth.

Di - to el que viene en el nombre del Señor.
Blest is he who comes in the name... of the Lord.
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

LORD’S PRAYER

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

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.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. 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

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Sending

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

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. 537) On Our Way Rejoicing
DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

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

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.

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

WELCOME BACK! Today we welcome Pastor Craig Sagebiel to our pulpit!

For Prayerful Consideration


For those in the military: Nick Adams, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Michael Rosales, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva.

Anniversary: Velmon & Peggy Buehring

Thank you to all the Women of the Church that have put endless time into preparing Quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to everyone that has supported the women with their time and monetary donations. Everyone's help in any way is always appreciated. This year 86 quilts and 18 school kits were delivered to Seguin to be sent to the Lutheran World Relief Organization. If anyone would like to help with this continuing service, the women meet on Tuesdays at 9 am.
A big Thank You to all that donated to the Relay For Life American Cancer Society this year! We were able to raise $2502 for the church sponsorship.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD OFFICE:

Bring A Plant for Synod Assembly May 4-6

PLANTS - Every congregation is asked to bring a 4” potted plant in an aluminum sleeve, and each plant should contain a prayer challenge that your congregation is facing. At the conclusion of the assembly, each congregation will take another congregation's plant with them and pray for them.

The synod staff has decided to grow chia heads in preparation for synod assembly.

OFFERING - The assembly offering this year will go toward the synod’s account in Fund for Leaders to support seminarians.

Interfaith Welcome Committee Speaker at Apr 12 Mtg

Sara Ramey of the Migrant Center for Human Rights will be the guest speaker at the Interfaith Welcome Coalition general meeting Thursday, April 12 from 10-12 am at First Presbyterian Church in San Antonio.

Installation of New Bishop Set for September 1

The installation service for the new bishop of the Southwestern Texas Synod will be held on Saturday, Sept. 1. The location and time will be finalized by the planning team and the bishop-elect.

An installation planning committee is being formed, chaired by Deacon John Dellis. A worship planning committee for the service is chaired by the Rev. Wayne Walther.