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

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul’s words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

Amen.

Trusting God’s promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Eternal God our creator, in you we live and move and have our being.
Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands.
Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.
By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us.
In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins.

Amen.

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

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 176 in Setting 7, at the front of the hymnal)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Oremos. Creador todopoderoso y Dios siempre vivo: adoramos tu gloria, eterno tres en uno, y alabamos tu poder, majestuoso uno en tres. Mantennos firmes en esta fe, defiendenos en toda adversidad, y llévanos por fin a tu presencia, donde vives en infinita alegría y amor, padre, hijo, y Espíritu Santo, ur Dios, ahora y para siempre, amén.

The assembly is seated.

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

This reading narrates Isaiah’s vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing “Holy, holy, holy,” a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God’s glory. That glory is God’s mercy toward sinners.

1In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. 2Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. 3And one called to another and said:
   “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
   the whole earth is full of his glory.”
4The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. 5And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”
Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 29

R: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God’s name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor. R
5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
6 the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
7 The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.
8 The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. R
9 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, “Glory!”
10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.
11 O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace. R

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-17

In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and sisters and brothers with Christ the Son.

12 Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.
Glory to You, O Lord!

Jesus’ miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.

1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” 3 Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ 8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” 9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

11 Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal...
16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
17 Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

The assembly is seated.

SERMON
Rev. Arden Dorn

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 412) Come, Join the Dance of Trinity

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

Filled with the Holy Spirit, we join with the church in every place, praying for the world that God so loves.

Abba, when we cry to you, your Spirit bears witness with our spirit. Give to your church the confidence of the children of God, so that we boldly share with everyone your world-saving love. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

The whole earth is full of your glory: cities teem, fields flourish, mountains soar, and waters abound. Blot out our sin of spoiling your creation. Send us to go for you, mending what is torn and tattered in your world. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son. In these days, when nation condemns nation, save us. Give us strength and fill us with your justice and peace. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Your people cry out to you, seeking the goodness and hope of your holiness. Let the wind of your Spirit blow into the lives of all who suffer from injustice, want, or anguish of any kind, especially for Elvira, Bobby, Alex, James, Lorain, Pauline, Roxanne, Shane, Linda, Norma, Ann, Laquita, Linda, Jack, Michael, Raymond, Steve, Evalina, Francis, Barbara, Ella, Khloe, Kenneth, Jim, Charles, Yvonne, Anyemarie, Mark, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

In our living and in our dying, we belong to you. In loving remembrance, we honor those who live with scars or have died defending our nation. Beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks, and teach us your ways. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

With affection we remember the saints now departed and rejoice in their faithful witness. Through their example, provoke us to holy lives of loving service in your name. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

O God, giver and sustainer of life, in this time of need send us the gift of rain, so that we may receive the fruits of the earth for our benefit and for your praise. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You bless us with opportunities to learn and share your Word and your love. Lead the Youth of St. Paul’s and their sponsors as they prepare to attend the 2018 Youth Gathering in Houston. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

As we sow Seeds of Hope, we pray for St. John Lutheran in Westhoff. Guide them to new opportunities and abilities to draw younger people into the congregation. We pray also for St. Peter’s in Elgin that they may have vision, direction, and that God would use them as an instrument of grace in their community. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

By the sure guidance of your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our prayers in trust and thanksgiving; through 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.*
OFFERTORY  

Father, in my life I See
You are God who walks with me
You hold my life in your hands
Close beside you I will stand
I give all my life to you
Help me Father to be true.

Jesus, in my life I see
You are God who walks with me
You hold my life in your hands
Close beside you I will stand
I give all my life to you
Help me Father to be true.

Spirit, in my life I see
You are God who walks with me
You hold my life in your hands
Close beside you I will stand
I give all my life to you
Help me Father to be true.

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, you open wide your hand
and satisfy the need of every living thing.
You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it.
Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. 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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

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

Jesus Christ, host of this meal,
you have given us not only this bread and cup,
but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.
Filled again by these signs of your grace,
may we hunger for your reign of justice,
may we thirst for your way of peace,
for you are Lord forevermore.
Amen.
Sending
 God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING
May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN  (ELW p. 818)  O Master, Let Me Walk with You

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve. 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.

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, Jon Wayne Schulz, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva.
WEEKLY GIVING (MAY 13, 2018)

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ST. PAUL’S YOUTH WILL BE ATTENDING THE 2018 YOUTH GATHERING IN HOUSTON JUNE 27 – JULY 1

They will be accepting donations over the next few Sunday’s. The donations will go toward the In-Kind Offering to buy books for The 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering Houston Literacy Campaign and to help with travel expenses. Donation envelopes are on the table at the rear of the sanctuary. Please write your check payable to: St. Paul’s Lutheran Youth Group. They are asking for your prayers as they prepare for this gathering. Thank you for all your support!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: June 3 – 6 (5:30 to 8:00 p.m.)

St. Paul’s will be in charge of kitchen and food. We will need volunteers for kitchen. We’ll serve light meal each day. Rita is working on the menu. We could use donations of cookies, chips, juice boxes, small water bottles, etc. (or money). The meal will be served at 5:30 to kids before they get started on activities. On Wednesday evening (closing program), we will feed parents as well.

Also, reminder that any of the high school kids are welcome to help out with classes, activities, etc. Will be a great opportunity to participate! – Rita
Greetings in the name of our Risen Christ!

I am excited and humbled to be serving as your new Bishop, beginning September 1, 2018. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support. I have been reading through and praying over all of the prayer requests you shared with me at the Assembly. They are prayers of thanksgiving, gratitude, hopes, and fears. They are all precious to me as I know they are to God. In the coming weeks and months, I look forward to visiting with you and also getting to work on more of our strategic plan priorities with our elected and appointed leaders. If you want to be a part of any of these plans, do not hesitate to volunteer!

Just to let you know, I will be on vacation May 20-June 3. I have been planning a trip to Japan for 2 years now with one of my seminary classmates to visit my college roommate there. We will be very well taken care of—it will be like a very short sabbatical during this time of transition. Please pray for safe travel and refreshment for us.

The installation planning team is off and running; the event will be held on Saturday, September 1 beginning at 2 pm at University United Methodist Church in San Antonio. It will be good to be in the space of one of our strong ecumenical partners. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

God’s richest blessings,

Bishop-elect Sue Briner

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Because of you, the Tiemann Endowment Fund for Leadership Development is a reality!

Together with you, we raised $57,170.88 to start the endowment. This fund has been established to support the development of lay leaders, Pastors, and Deacons serving under call. Managed by the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest as a permanent endowment, this fund will create a new generation of supported and trained leaders for our faith community. This first year we anticipate providing $1,000 in leadership awards. More information will be coming about this process soon.

But, the work doesn’t stop there. We want this fund to keep growing so each year we can support more and more leaders in our community. To learn more, please visit www.swtsynod.org/tiemann. Again, thank you for your support of the leadership in our community of faith. With YOU, we are making a difference!
SYNOD ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

- Elected Bishop’s Associate, Pr. Sue Briner, as the next Bishop of the Southwestern Texas Synod. She will be installed into office on September 1 at 2:00 p.m. at University United Methodist Church in San Antonio.
- Prayer shawls used for the bishop’s election were made by volunteers across the synod. We sent an extra shawl back with Deacon Sue Rothmeyer for Presiding Bishop Eaton.
- Accepted San Pablo Lutheran Church, San Antonio, as a new congregation in the synod.
- Elected the following persons to synod leadership positions:
  - **Ministry Team Chairs** – Pr. Sarah Nye for the Mission Team and Pr. Paul Miller for the Leadership Development Team
  - **Synod Council** – Ashlynn Altman, Gabriella Conklin, Carol Semper, John Kassel, Monica Buie, Yael Mendez, Pr. Gary Conklin, and Pr. Heather Hansen
  - **2019 Churchwide Assembly** – Hannah Hansen, Gene Conklin, Chip Wilson, Lupe Travis, Claire Roberts, Jimmie Eschberger, Pr. Jessica Cain, Pr. Jake Fain, Pr. Casey Zesch (also attending as ex officio members are Bishop-elect Sue Briner and synod VP, Carl Teinter)
  - **Consultation Committee** – Pr. Ellen Williams and Leigh Ingram
  - **Discipline Committee** – Pr. Carmen Retzlaff, Pr. William Swantner, James Ehler, and Karalyn Heimlich
  - Two nominees for ELCA Church Council – Pr. Mark Behrendt and Pr. Marcus Bigott
  - Approved a 2019-20 budget of $1,616,184.
  - Enjoyed a farewell banquet for Bishop Ray and Debbie Tiemann on Saturday evening. The assembly celebrated the gifts received for the Tiemann Endowment Fund for Leadership Development - $57,170. Gifts are always welcome, and the 2019 assembly offering has been designated for the Tiemann Endowment.
  - Received an assembly offering for the synod’s account in Fund for Leaders (supporting seminary scholarships) of $69,255.23. Gifts will continue to be received through August 31. Please mark gifts as “Synod Assembly Offering.”
  - Announced the 2019 Synod Assembly to be held on May 31-June 2 at the Bayfront Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi
  - Approved a resolution entitled, “Recognizing and Responding to the Status of Jerusalem, the City over which Jesus Wept.” It encourages congregations to use the ELCA’s “Peace Not Walls” resources to learn about elements that lead to peace and to utilize travel to Israel and Palestine, listening to all voices, to learn firsthand the complex issues of conflict and peace in that region.

DOMESTIC HUNGER GRANTS

The ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger grants continue to be the main way that ELCA congregations and synods can steward the funds so generously given in support of our shared ministry toward a just world where all are fed. The $15,950.00 of grants in your synod are part of over $715,000 that will return where needed most in our communities and congregations across the ELCA in accomplishment of our shared hopes, dreams, and ministry. Thank you.

This year’s recipients include: Abiding Love Lutheran Church, Austin; The Backpack Coalition, Austin; Interfaith Action of Central Austin; First Lutheran Church, Edinburg; Christ Chapel at Texas State, San Marcos; La Frontera Ministries, McAllen; and Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry & Support Center.

COUNCIL TO THE ELCA YOUTH GATHERING!

Congregations received the synod day shirts at synod assembly. If your youth or adult sponsors have questions about the Gathering, contact Denise at 512-468-3346 or youth@palmvalleyrr.org.