Sometimes God works secretly and behind the scenes. But He will reveal His work to us when the time is right.
Gathering
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus’ table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN
(ELW p. 729)
The Church of Christ, in Every Age

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

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.
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 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.

MORNING LITANY

O Lord, I cry to you for help. In the morning my prayer comes before you.

Let my mouth be full of your praise and your glory all the day long.

Every day will I bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.

You redeem my life from the grave, and crown me with mercy and steadfast love.

Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.  Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Oremos. Dios misericordioso, has puesto en el corazón de todos tus hijos un anhelo por tu palabra y un hambre por tu verdad. Concédeame que podamos conocer a tu hijo como el verdadero pan del cielo y compartir este pan con todo el mundo, por medio de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y Señor. Amén.

The assembly is seated.

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

FIRST READING:  2 Kings 4:42-44

Today’s reading is part of a larger section of 2 Kings that describes the miracles of Elisha, the successor to Elijah. Here the prophet gives food to a hungry crowd. Though there is not enough food to go around, Elisha trusts God, who provides enough and even more to satisfy the need.

42 A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, “Give it to the people and let them eat.” 43 But his servant said, “How can I set this before a hundred people?” So he repeated, “Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, ‘They shall eat and have some left.’” 44 He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

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

SECOND READING:  Ephesians 3:14-21

We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. 16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. 18 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.
The assembly stands.

**Glory to You, O Lord!**

*In John’s gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called “signs,” because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.*

1 Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. 2 A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. 3 Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. 5 When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” 6 He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. 7 Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, 9 There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people? 10 Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. 11 Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” 13 So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. 14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

15 When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, 17 got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. 18 The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. 19 When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. 20 But he said to
them, "It is I; do not be afraid." 21 Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 689) Praise and Thanksgiving

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assembly shall kneel as they are able.

Trusting in our loving and almighty God who abundantly provides the bread of life to all who hunger, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Loving God, we pray for all those who gather to celebrate the holy feast of Christ’s body and blood. Strengthen every member of your church in love, faith, and service. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we praise you for the beauty and abundance of your creation. Send sunshine and rain to nourish crops. Teach us to produce and distribute food with justice and generosity. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Loving God, you know every nation, every culture, and every people. Teach us to work together for peace and to love each other even when we cannot understand our neighbors. We continue to pray for those asylum seekers that are known to us – David, Sadat, Moma, and Moma’s family. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you hear the cries of the hungry, the sick, and the downcast. Send food, healing, and comfort to all who are in need, especially David, Elvira, Bobby, Alex, James, Pauline, Pastor Tom, Mitch, Shane, Linda, Norma, Laquita, Helen, Linda, Jack, Michael, Raymond, Alva, Steve, Evalina, Francis, Ella, Khloe, Kenneth, Charles, Carly, Eddie, Pastor Wally, Shanna, Yvonne, Anyemarie, Mark, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Loving God, we thank and praise you for this congregation. Teach us to be a holy family, Christ’s body to and for one another. Unite us in love and faith. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we thank and praise you for the beloved dead who taught and fed us in Christian faith. Hasten the feast that will reunite us. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
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. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty and loving God, we look to you in hope and trust, knowing that you will do far more than we can ask or imagine, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

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

OFFERING HYMN (ELW p. 186) Create in Me a Clean Heart

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.


ANNOUNCEMENTS
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. 547)  Sent Forth by God’s Blessing

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

Ill or Injured: David Anaba, Elvira Boehm, Bobby Busselman, Alex Caballero, James Castillo, Pauline Davidson, Rev. Tom Dietzel, Mitch Dorn, Shane Edens, Linda Franke, Norma Foreman, Laquita Gibbens, Helen Grimm, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Michael Janysek, Raymond Jenkins, Alva Jonas, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Ella Manka, Khloe Martinez, Kenneth Matthews, Charles Pierce, Carly Rosenboon, Eddie Salas, Rev. Wally Schievelbein, Shanna Swierc, Yvonne Watkins, Anyemarie, Mark Witte, Mary Ruth Witte, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiontz, and Norma Zamzow

For those in the military: Nick Adams, Anthony Alvarez, 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
Today we welcome Mr. Sergio Rodriguez to our pulpit! Mr. Rodriguez is a first year Master's of Divinity student in Wartburg Theological Seminary's Collaborative program. Currently, he is the Pastoral Intern of Gethsemane Lutheran Church/Jesus Maestro.

Our Budget Status:

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The Southwestern Texas Synod shared a post.
July 21 at 3:23 PM · 🎉

Please forward this to all those you know who will be attending Texas A&M Kingsville. We're excited to be beginning a new campus ministry there with Pastor Joel Nye who is serving at Trinity in Kingsville!

Lutherans of the Gulf Coast
July 21 at 1:58 PM · 🎉

Texas A & M Kingsville Campus Ministry
Trinity Lutheran Church Kingsville, TX.

Calling all new and current Texas A & M Kingsville students. If you are looking for a Lutheran community during your time at Texas A & M Kingsville look no further. This fall Trinity Lutheran church in Kingsville is starting a Lutheran campus ministry. Come and see! Explore the Bible in community. Enjoy fellowship, volunteer opportunities, and worship. If you are interested please contact me by phone, text, or e-mail with your phone number and e-mail address so I can add you to the campus ministry Facebook page and Google hangout list. See you soon!
Pastor Joel Nye
Trinity Lutheran Church – Kingsville TX
(361) 244-4344
jnye001@luthersem.edu
Installation of The Rev. Susan Jennifer Briner

September 1, 2018
2:00 p.m.
University United Methodist Church
5081 De Zavala Road, San Antonio

Overnight accommodations are available at
Embassy Suites San Antonio NW I-10.
7750 Briaridge, San Antonio - 210-340-5421
Discounted rates are available with the code “BIS” Bishop Installation.

Those participating in the procession are requested to arrive at the church by 1 p.m.
RSVP at www.swtsynod.org/bishopinstallation so we can prepare accordingly.

For additional information, please contact info@swtsynod.org.

God’s grace transforms and connects us to learn, to love, to lead.