St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
13th Sunday after Pentecost
August 19, 2018

Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister
Mike Tessman, Assistant Minister
Mike Tessman, Lay Reader

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

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John’s gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John’s gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord’s supper, but here we can’t help hearing Jesus’ words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN (ELW p. 523) Let Us Go Now to The Banquet

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ,
The assembly shall kneel as they are able.

We confess...
That we come believing in our emptiness,
believing that we will never have enough,
believing that what we have is unworthy.

We confess...
That we come fearful of sharing,
feared of losing our tenuous grip on security,
feared of touching and knowing the pain of others.

We confess...
That we come overwhelmed by the hunger,
overwhelmed by the suffering of children near and far,
overwhelmed by the endless tales of senseless violence, greed, and death.
We confess...
That we come aching from the weight of the responsibility,
aching from the chilling challenge of knowing our abundance,
aching from the gnawing awareness that we have much to share.

We pray...
That while we come clinging to our meager offerings, you might loosen our grip and help us
to give so that all might thrive.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ takes our offerings and blessed them and us. Christ forgives us our sins and breaks us open for the world. Jesus shows us how we can share all that we are and still live in abundance. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

KYRIE

1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol-lemn prayer.
2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a-way our sin.
3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de-part.

We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be-gin.
Renew us with your sav-ing pow’r; create in us new hearts!
CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Let us pray. Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly is seated.
FIRST READING: Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom’s food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom’s banquet is the way to life.

1Wisdom has built her house, 
   she has hewn her seven pillars. 
2She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, 
   she has also set her table. 
3She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls 
   from the highest places in the town, 
4“You that are simple, turn in here!” 
   To those without sense she says, 
5“Come, eat of my bread 
   and drink of the wine I have mixed. 
6Lay aside immaturity, and live, 
   and walk in the way of insight.”

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

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 34:9-14

R: Those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.

9Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord, 
   for those who fear the Lord lack nothing. 
10The lions are in want and suffer hunger, 
   but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good. R 
11Come, children, and listen to me; 
   I will teach you reverence for the Lord. 
12Who among you takes pleasure in life 
   and desires long life to enjoy prosperity? 
13Keep your tongue from evil 
   and your lips from lying words. 
14Turn from evil and do good; 
   seek peace and pursue it. R
SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15-20

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, 16 making the most of the time, because the days are evil. 17 So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, 20 giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le-lu-ia! Lord and Savi-our: o-pen now your sav-ing word.

Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un-til our hearts are stirred.

Al-le-lu-ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO: John 6:51-58

Glory to You, O Lord!

In John’s gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true “bread of life.” Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church’s celebration of holy communion.

[Jesus said,] 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” 53 So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; 55 for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. 56 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. 57 Just as the living Father sent me,
and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

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

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 492) Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

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.

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.

O Lord, you build your church, the body of Christ, and sustain it with living bread. Let wisdom guide your church, and teach all its members the way of righteousness. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, bless the work of musicians, composers, writers, and all artists. Move us to even greater praise through their gifts of creativity. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, we thank you for the diversity of the nations. Shower your wisdom and mercy upon all leaders and citizens. Give us all the courage to seek peace and pursue it. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
O Lord, send calm and perseverance to those who are in trouble or who live daily with great stress; for those that are ill or injured. Fill them with your Spirit and satisfy them with your presence, especially David, Sharon, Elvera, Bobby & Betty, Alex, James, Pauline, Mitch, Roxanne, Shane, Linda, Norma, Laquita, Helen, Linda, Jack, Michael, Raymond, Alva, Steve, Evalina, Francis, Ella, Khloe, Kenneth, Eric, Moma, The Ndeh Family, Charles, Leroy, Carly, Eddie, Shanna, Travis, John, Yvonne, Anyemarie, 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.

O Lord, we thank you for this congregation. Give us gratitude for the many blessings we enjoy, and inspire us to give thanks at all times. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, we bless you for family, friends, and sisters and brothers in Christ who have guided us in wisdom and insight. Lead us into peace with all people until the day of Christ. 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

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 p. 674) Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
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. 545)  Lord, Dismiss Us with Your 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


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
**Birthdays:**
Katie Yanta (Aug 23), Gerald Dickens (Aug 31)

**Contribution Corner:**

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**Coming Events**
Let’s join together and PARTICIPATE!

The Women of the Church will be purchasing and putting together school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Anyone who would like to donate to this cause can do so at any time. We will be accepting monetary donations to help pay for the school kits. Place your donation in a marked envelope that says Women’s Group. Thank you!

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday will be Sunday, September 9, 2018. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. You work every day to make your community a better place. Let us continue doing this work together in 2018!
The Southwestern Texas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America cordially invites you to attend a Service of Holy Communion and installation of

The Rev. Susan Jennifer Briner
as Bishop of the Southwestern Texas Synod

Saturday, the First of September
Two thousand eighteen
at two o’clock in the afternoon

By Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

University United Methodist Church
5084 De Zavala Road, San Antonio

A reception will follow the service

Offering received will be shared with
Iglesia Luterana Costarricense and the Tiemann Endowment Fund for Leadership Development