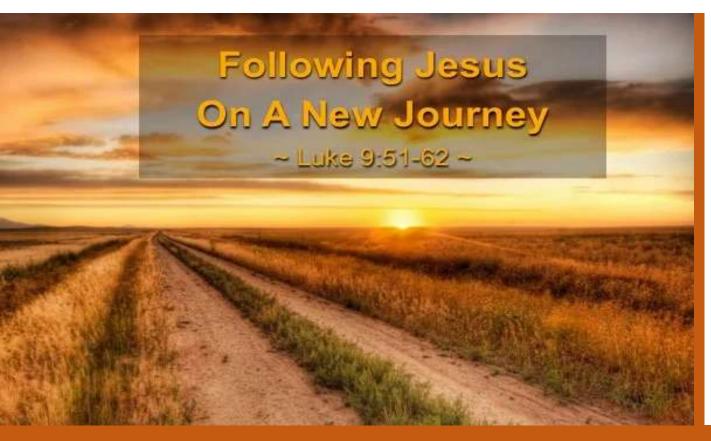




Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church Child Development Center and Pre-School Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor June 29, 2025





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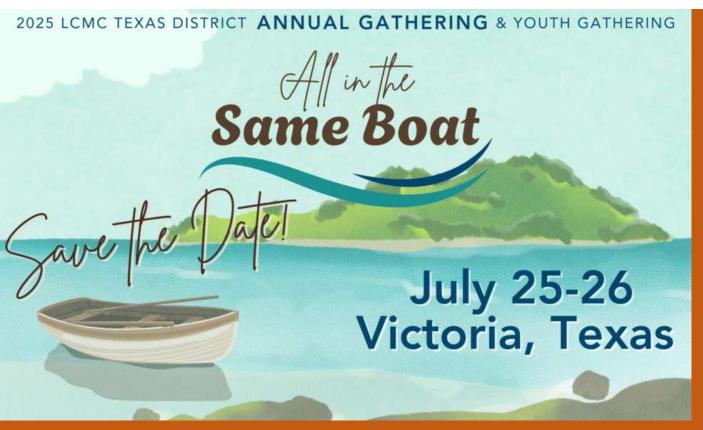




WELCOME WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US



Altar flowers are placed in celebration of family birthdays in July LaVerne (2nd) and Tracy (22nd) by the Richter family.





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INTRODUCTION

We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus' call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- Merciful God, you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
- You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
- You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us.

Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.

Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

Amen.

Gathering Song

"Gather Us In"

¹ Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

² We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face; we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

³ Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Final Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away - here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Glory To God

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest, glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest, glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest, glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest, glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth, and peace to God's people on earth.

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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray
Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to
obey you, and you favor us with true freedom.
Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that,
leaving behind all that hinders us, we may
steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

In the story preceding today's reading, the prophet Elijah flees for his life to the security of God's mountain. There God reveals to Elijah that there are still other faithful people in Israel and commissions him to anoint new leaders, including his own successor, Elisha.

15 Then the LORD said to [Elijah,] "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁹So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing.

There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. 20 He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" ²¹He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate.

Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 16

I have set the LORD always before me. (Ps. 16:8)

- ¹ Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."
- ² All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.

- ³ But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.
- ⁴ I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.
- ⁵ O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.
- ⁶ My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.

- ⁷ I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.
- ⁸ I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

- ⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.
- ¹⁰ For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.
- ¹¹ You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

For Paul, the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ's Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.

¹For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. 14For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

¹⁵If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia.
Lord, to whom shall we go?
Alleluia.
You have the words of eternal Life.
Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 9:51-62

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62

Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.

51When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"

⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley



Hymn of the Day

"O Master, Let Me Walk with You"

Hymn # 818

¹ O Master, let me walk with you in lowly paths of service true;

tell me your secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

² Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;

teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

³ Teach me your patience; share with me a closer, dearer company,

in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong,

ray far down the future's broad'ning way,

in peace that only you can give; with you, O Master, let me live.

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

CREED

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

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

Guide your church, O God. Anoint us for service and make us messengers of your peace. Emboldened by the witness of Christians throughout history, send us to proclaim your reign come near.

God of grace,

Protect this world, O God. Watch over fields and fruit trees, foxes and birds, the pleasant land beneath us and the sun and moon above. Keep us mindful of the rich inheritance you have given us in the natural world.

God of grace,

Counsel our leaders, O God. Make them steadfast in seeking justice and unable to be shaken as they pursue peace. Lead them by your Spirit to listen and respond to the people they govern. God of grace,

Uphold all who suffer, O God. Give refuge to those of us who know rejection, and shelter to those of us who have nowhere to lay our heads. Bring any who are sick into your healing presence and we remember our friends and family members before you. Give all your fullness of joy. God of grace,

Set free this assembly, O God. Grow your Spirit's fruits within us and within our congregation's ministries. Set our faces always on you, that we might live in the freedom to which you have called us.

God of grace,

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for Jamie and Kelly in East Asia, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Faith Remnant Lutheran Church in Paradise, Montana. God of peace, you call your church to work together in unity. Help us to work in peace and harmony with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We thank you for the leadership and ministry of the Board of Trustees, Ministry Board and support staff of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ as they serve our association. Especially today we celebrate and lift before you the ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hempstead, Texas and their pastor, Darrin Trammell. May your grace flow through them as they share your Good News.

Bless and protect all our local nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders, our students, teachers and school administrators. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Embrace all your saints, O God. We thank you for the faithful departed. Let us rejoice that you do not abandon us to the grave but lead us on the path of life.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you. Amen.

Canticle of Thanksgiving

Refrain Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for ever and ever.

¹ Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe; just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.

Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?

Refrain Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

² For you alone are the Holy One, and blessed is the one whose name is the Word of God.
All praise and thanks to you, holy God!

Refrain Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Song

"Here I Am, Lord"

Hymn # 574

¹ I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Hymn # 574

[Refrain]

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

² I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

[Refrain]

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Final I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

[Refrain]

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

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