

**Welcome to Worship with the
Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly
June 6, 2021**

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PRELUDE

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Mr. Rob Mikulski

Director of Music, Zion Lutheran Church, San Antonio

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GATHERING

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

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, †one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

L: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Wade in the Water

[A leader sings the words in parentheses]

Refrain

Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

- 1 (See that host all dressed in white.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(the leader looks like the Israelite.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

- 2 (See that band all dressed in red.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(looks like the band that Moses led.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

- 3 (Look over yonder, what do I see?)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

- 4 (If you don't believe I've been redeemed.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(just follow me down to Jordan's stream.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

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GREETING

*The Rev. Dr. Kathi Johnson
Zion Lutheran Church, San Antonio*

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

“Gloria” ELW Setting #7

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!
Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!
And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.
And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.

¡Gloria, gloria, gloria en las alturas a Dios!
¡Gloria, gloria, gloria en las alturas a Dios!
Y en la tierra pax para aquellos que ama el Señor.
Y en la tierra pax para aquellos que ama el Señor.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

C: Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our savior and lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

WORD

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

FIRST READING:

The Rev. Luis Echandia

A reading from Exodus 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

L: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 95

*The Rev. Lisa & Mr. Danny Hoelscher
Coordinator for Care Connectors, SWT Synod*

- ¹Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
- ²**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**
- ³For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
- ⁴**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**
- ⁵The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
- ⁶**Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**
- ⁷For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture
and the sheep of God's hand.
Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!
- ⁸**"Harden not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**
- ⁹There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.
- ¹⁰**Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**
- ¹¹Indeed I swore in my anger,
'They shall never come to my rest.'

GOSPEL

L: The Holy Gospel according to St John, the fourth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Rev. Jake Fain, The Rev. Shelley Simmont, Deacon Andrew More,
Mr. Martin Franz & The Rev. Judith Miller
Peace, New Braunfels*

SERMON

Bishop Susan Briner & The Rev. Carmelo Santos Rolon

Come to the Water of Life

- 1 All who are thirsty for mercy,
all who are thirsty for love;
all who are thirsty for love, for mercy, come:
come to the Water of life.

- 2 All who are thirsty for healing,
all who are thirsty for touch;
all who are thirsty for touch, for healing, come:
come to the Water of life.

- 3 All who are thirsty for beauty,
all who are thirsty for truth;
all who are thirsty for truth, for beauty, come:
come to the Water of life.

- 4 All who are thirsty for justice,
all who are thirsty for peace;
all who are thirsty for peace, for justice, come:
come to the Water of life.

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APOSTLES' CREED

Mr. Gene Conklin

Social Justice and Equity Intern, SWT Synod

**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

*Ms. Lisa Diana
Care Connector, Alamo Conference*

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us come before God in prayer:
(pause...)

God of wholeness, we pray for believers all around the globe and for the community and the communion we share in Christ through: The Lutheran World Federation; Lutheran World Relief; The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and our bishop, Elizabeth. Unite us in service of the gospel, that we may work together as beloved siblings to share your love with all.

Lord in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

*Mr. Rudy Losoya
Care Connector, Rio Grande Conference*

God of the cosmos, we pray for creation; the gardens, waterways, and creatures near to us and forms of life that remain unseen. Teach us to treat the natural world with reverence, seeking restoration when human divisions have caused harm to your beloved creation. Bless with renewing rain the drought stricken earth; guard and protect all in the path of storms, floods and natural disasters.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer.

*Ms. Claire Roberts
Care Connector, Cibolo Creek Conference*

God of all people, we pray for harmony among the nations. Cast out from us unclean spirits of greed and fear that we may work in solidarity with one another for the common good. Empower us as we face the crisis at our southern border and lift to your love and care those who labor and those who suffer there. Give us wisdom, strength, and courage to do what must be done to preserve the humanity and dignity of all who seek sanctuary, shelter and safety in that place at this time.

Lord in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

*Ms. Michelle Schlinke
Care Connector, Bluebonnet Conference*

God of grace, we pray for men, women, and children who are in need: for those who are ill, seeking health and healing in the midst of this ongoing coronavirus pandemic; those who are hungry or homeless; those estranged from family, friends, school, and social communities; those who suffer in these difficult economic times. Bless and protect medical staff and caregivers, teachers and essential workers, community food and service agencies. Grant that all your people may come to know the fullness of this life.

Lord in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

*The Rev. Adam Varner
Care Connector, Specialized Ministries*

God of equity, we celebrate with our ELCA more than 50 years of service by ordained women, 40 years by ordained women of color and 10 years by ordained LGBTQIA siblings. We give thanks for the unique gifts they bring to all your people. We pray for those being called to serve, those currently in preparation, and those awaiting call to ordained Word and Sacrament or Word and Service ministry in this church. Give wisdom and guidance to students, seminaries and candidacy committees.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer.

*Ms. Monica Buie
Care Connector, Capital North Conference*

God of abundance, we pray for our Southwestern Texas Synod, our bishop, Susan, staff, congregations, pastors, deacons, vicars, synod authorized ministers, lay leaders, and all those who join in this ministry. Strengthen and guide us as we continue to learn, to love, and to lead for the sake of your kingdom. We give thanks this day:

For The Rev. Dr. Judith Spindt, her 8 years of ministry among the people of Southwestern Texas as Director of Evangelical Mission and Bishop's Associate for Leadership;

For The Rev. Dr. Javier Alanis, his 21 years of dedication to the mission of The Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest as a professor of theology and Executive Director;

For Mr. Carl Teinert, his 13 years of service as Vice President of this synod;

and for all those who give their time and talent to the mission and ministry that The Southwestern Texas Synod enables among congregations, conferences, ministries and institutions within its borders.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer.

*The Rev. Gary Conklin
Care Connector, Gulf Coast Conference*

God of the ages, you surround the Church with saints and holy ones to forever proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. We praise you for those whose lives have touched our own and who now rest in you. Especially we give thanks for the lives of those rostered ministers who died recently: Pastors Hilmer Krause, Vernon Breikreutz, Joe Garcia, Mel Swoyer, James Heineke, Wilbert Doerr, Walter Lentz, Deacon Virginia Wilcox and all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Give us your grace that, on the last day, we too may be brought into heaven's embrace and enfolded into the life of the Trinity.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer.

(This video was recorded prior to the deaths of Pastor Don Gebert, Bishop Philip Wahlberg, and Pastor Glenn Moehring. We request that you also acknowledge them in your prayers.)

L: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

THANKSGIVING

We respond to God with our gifts of time and talent, thanks and praise.

Give online at www.swtsynod.org/pages/assembly or scan the QR code or mail a check payable to Southwestern Texas Synod with Assembly Offering in the memo.



THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

*The Rev. Rosemarie Doucette
Care Connector, Spanish Speaking Ministries*

L: 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.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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

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

BLESSING

*The Rev. Susan J Briner
Bishop, Southwestern Texas Synod, ELCA*

L: 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.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

*“Carry Your Candle, Go Light Your World”
Peace Lutheran Singers, Peace Lutheran Church, New Braunfels*

Carry Your Candle... Go Light Your World

There is a candle in every soul
Some brightly burning, some dark and cold
There is a Spirit who brings a fire
Ignites a candle and makes His home

Refrain:

*So carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the helpless, confused and torn
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world*

Frustrated brother, see how he's tried to
Light his own candle some other way
See now your sister, she's been robbed and lied to
Still holds a candle without a flame *Refrain*

Cause We are a family whose hearts are blazing
So let's raise our candles and light up the sky
Praying to our Father, in the name of Jesus
Make us a beacon in darkest times *Refrain*

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DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*Ms. Marianne Gould
Director of Music, Peace Lutheran Church, New Braunfels*

The blue stoles worn by the rostered women were designed by Pastor Enedina Vasquez; made by Pastors Judith Spindt, Ellen Williams and Judi Miller; and presented to each of the ordained women of the synod in celebration of the 50, 40, 10 years of the Ordination of Women in the ELCA.