



Opening of the Assembly

Bishop: Since Abraham and Sarah, since Mary and Paul, since Luther and Muhlenberg, since our forebears from our distant past and those we hold close now, we gather to you, O God.

People: **We gather to you, O God.**

Bishop: Here is one body of faith, here is the word of hope, here is the Spirit of love, here is your mission before us. Gather us to you, O God.

People: **Gather us to you, O God.**

Bishop: We gather, coming from many households. We come celebrating the faith we are called to share. We gather, ready for work. We gather, the unity of the Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit, and lead us to do your will.

People: **Come, Holy Spirit, and lead us to do your will.**

Bishop: As in one body we have many members,

People: **so we, who are many, are one body in Christ.**

Bishop: Where two or three are gathered in my name, says the Lord,

People: **I am there among them.**

Bishop: Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

People: **Let us pursue what makes for justice and peace, and for mutual up-building. As the body of Christ and individual members let us speak the truth in love.**

Hymn: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (see next page)

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Bishop: Let us pray. O God, you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Bishop: I declare the 2017 Northwestern Minnesota Synod assembly to be in session in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

The musical score is written for three voices (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor) and a basso continuo. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and homophonic, with the bass line providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with a corresponding musical staff. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, the second system covers the second and third lines, and the third system covers the fourth and fifth lines. The music concludes with a double bar line.

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543