

WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:27

We gather as we live—in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us pray.

**God who unites us, God who draws us together in this time and this place,
as grains of wheat were gathered together to become one bread,
so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into you,
for yours is the glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Hymn: “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” or “The Church’s One Foundation”

Readings: Isaiah 43: 1-13
1 Corinthians 12: 27-31

A bowl filled with sand is set in the center of the worship area; in the center of the sand is set a smaller bowl filled with water--a reminder to us that even in this Good Friday world, we are God’s Easter people.

We are church—
We are church together.

We are church—
**We are church globally, internationally, locally--
We are church as congregations, cluster, conference, synod.
We are church together.**

We are church—
**With varied gifts in varied settings,
We are church together.**

We are church—
**We are all Christ’s body,
each one a part of the greater whole.
We are church together**

We are church—
We are church together.

Each worshiper is invited to come forward to touch the sand in the bowl and dip a finger in the water, to make the sign of the Cross on one’s forehead--a reminder of the baptismal hope that is ours in Christ Jesus.

People of God, look about you and see all the images of God gathered here.
In me, in you, in each of us,
God’s Spirit shines for all to see.
We are church together.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
**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.**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Share a greeting of Christ's peace with those gathered.

Let us pray.

Good and gracious God, you have created a
marvelous, diverse, complex world.

Persons who thought they had nothing in common
realize that in you, we are one Body.

Thank you for the marvelous ways you've surprised us here.

Thank you for helping us realize that, yes, we can *give*,
but that grace is something we all long to *receive*.

Bless our work and our ministry, bless our joy,
bless us as we try out new ways of working together,
knowing that as we walk with you we might stumble,
but you will not let us fall.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...

Our Father in heaven...

Blessing

People of God, you have been crucified with Christ,
and it is no longer you who live, but Christ who lives in you.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

We are church.

We are church together.

Thanks to God!