

BLESSING FOR SYNOD ASSEMBLY AND VOTING MEMBERS

A Reading from Ephesians

“That is why I kneel before Abba God, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. And I pray that God, out of the riches of divine glory, will strengthen you inwardly with power through the working of the Spirit. May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, so that you, being rooted and grounded in love, will be able to grasp fully the breadth, length, height and depth of Christ’s love and, with all God’s holy ones, experience this love that surpasses all understanding, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. To God - whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine - to God be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, world without end! Amen.”

— The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation by Priests for Equality

Let us pray.

Gracious and Loving God,

The Holy Spirit equips your beloved children with a rich variety of gifts. Grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ in lives that are built on faith and love. Make us ready to live the gospel and eager to do your will. Awaken us from complacency and stir us into movement. Continue to prepare us for the coming seasons of our lives together.

Come Holy Spirit.

Provide your blessing on those gathering for the Synod Assembly and help us all to work together in ways that provide love and nourishment for the whole body. By your inspiration, strengthen us for the journey ahead so we may engage the challenges and opportunities for our communities and this Synod with joy and hope.

Come Holy Spirit.

Come Holy Spirit and set our hearts on fire with love for our communities, the world, and all of creation. Let this Synod Assembly be a time of inspiration - to confess and name the difficult work we are called into, to be fed in our faith, and to be sent renewed for such a time as this.

Today, we give thanks for those who will be sent from this congregation to serve as voting members to the Metro DC Synod Assembly on June 3rd.

Bless (*names of voting members*) as they carry with them our offerings of hopes and blessings for the Metro DC Synod. In the moments of worship, fellowship and plenary, give them wisdom and courage to listen and to dream, to lament and to hope. May the insights and experiences they have during this gathering become nourishment and inspiration for our shared mission together.

In all this we pray.

Amen

POST ASSEMBLY PRAYER

God of Inspiration,

We give thanks for the opportunity we have had for our congregations and partners in faith to once again gather together for worship, reflection, and the work we are called and guided into by the Holy Spirit. Be with us now as we move forward with our beloved siblings and combine our prayerful efforts to grow in mission together as a Synod.

May our varied expressions of faith lead us to an even more intentional focus on the welfare of all of our beloved siblings in life's journey. Open our hearts to understand and embrace the movement of your Spirit, and allow us to not only see each other, but listen more deeply to the stories we each possess. We are ever thankful for this opportunity to combine our talents to be made new again and again for the sake of others and all of creation. It is our humble desire that this Synod Assembly will continue to inspire us to engage in the difficult yet fruitful work that heals the nations and glorifies you.

In all this we pray. Amen