



You are welcome here!
**We are disciples of Jesus, growing
in Faith, Hope, and Love**

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Facebook

[www.facebook.com/
OurRedeemerLutheranGP](http://www.facebook.com/OurRedeemerLutheranGP)

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Worship Times

Sunday 10:15 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm

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Pastor

Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal



December 11, 2022
Third Sunday of
Advent

Gathering

✘ INTRODUCTION

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

✘ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

C Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

P Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sin, and confess it to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of new beginnings,

C we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

P People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on + Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C Amen.

✘ GATHERING HYMN **Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn** **(ELW#242)**

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✘ GREETING

P 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.

✘ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and salvation. Blessed be God forever.

✘ ADVENT HYMN – Light Three Candles to Watch for Messiah (ELW #240) verse 3

Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
Let the light banish dark-ness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
For the King of glory.

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✘ PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Word

✘ FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

✘ **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 146:5-10**

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**¹⁰The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

✘ **SECOND LESSON – James 5:7-10**

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able, to welcome the Gospel.

✘ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW#264 verse 1)**

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let every hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

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✘ **GOSPEL – Matthew 11:2-11**

P The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

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

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes?

Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,
‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

✠ SERMON

✠ HYMN OF THE DAY – We Are Waiting (ACS#905)

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✠ APOSTLES’ CREED (ELW p. 105)

P With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:

C 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

A As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

A Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss. Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

✠ PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C And also with you.

✠ OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, here and around the world.

After the offering is gathered, the gifts are brought forward. Please stand, as you are able.

✠ OFFERING PRAYER

A Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

Meal

✠ GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

✠ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW#190)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Holy, holy, hold Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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✠ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P With this bread and cup...

We look with hope for his coming.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit....

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours...

one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

✠ LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

✠ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

✠ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

✠ COMMUNION HYMN – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(ELW#257) vs. 5-9 *Text and arrangement © 1997 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
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✠ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord

C Amen.

✠ BLESSING

P God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ SENDING HYMN – My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness (ELW#251)

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✠ DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is near.

C Thanks be to God.

**The following items are being collected on an
ongoing basis for the
Grand Prairie Food and Clothing Co-op:**

- Men's medium and large long sleeved shirts
- Men's pants/jeans (32, 34, 36)
- Shoes for kids and men (all sizes)
- Men's and Women's jackets (all sizes)

PLUS, volunteers are always needed!

The Co-op is open 9am-11am Tuesday thru Friday.

**If anyone is able to volunteer even one or two days a month,
anything is welcome!**

**There will be no Tuesday morning Bible Study scheduled during
December, as we focus on church and family during the Advent
and Christmas seasons.**

Stay tuned for information about Bible Study in January.

Things to Know

Prayer Cards – We now have prayer cards available in the Narthex. Please fill one (or more) out with any special prayer requests. These will be used to keep our prayer list updated.

Coupons for Military Personnel – We continue to send coupons to the Ramstein Commissary in Germany. Please bring your coupons for nonfood, food, and pet items and put them in the box. Thank you.

Office Hours – Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 1pm to 4:30pm, and Wednesday, 2:30 pm to 6pm. Please call the office during those times if you need anything (972-642-5683). There may be some alteration to the hours during the Christmas holiday. This will be announced ahead of time in the bulletin.

Feel free to donate housekeeping items needed for the church – paper dinner napkins, toilet paper, Lysol or Chlorox wipes (anti-viral/disinfecting), Pine-sol concentrated cleaner, and soft-soap and dish soap refills.

✘ **SERVING TODAY**

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal
Music Director:	John Zacharias
Assisting Minister:	Mel Hammer
Lay Reader:	Julie Schmidt
Communion Cup Holder:	Kyle Bennett
Usher:	Renee Swanjord
Videographer:	Steve Curry
Altar Care:	Renee Swanjord
Sunday School:	Julie Bothun

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