



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

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Worship Times

Sunday 10:15 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm



Pastor

Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal



April 30, 2023
Fourth Sunday of
Easter

Gathering

✘ INTRODUCTION

Today is sometime called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

✘ THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

C **Amen.**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

P Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

C **Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

P Satisfy the world’s need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C **Amen.**

✘ GATHERING HYMN – The King of Love My Shepherd Is (ELW #502)

✘ 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.**

✘ **GLORY TO GOD– (ELW setting 7, p. 176)**



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra_a-que-llos que_a-ma_el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra_a-que-llos que_a-ma_el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.

✘ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A Let us pray. O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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 – Acts 2:42-47

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

✘ RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

✘ SECOND LESSON – 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval.

²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel

✘ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – Be Not Afraid (ELW #388)

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The second system of musical notation is identical to the first system, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) with the same key signature and time signature, and the same lyrics.

✠ GOSPEL – John 10:1-10

P The Holy Gospel, according to John, the tenth chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them.

⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

✠ SERMON

✠ HYMN OF THE DAY – Have No Fear, Little Flock (ELW #764)

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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 United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A You are the shepherd who gathers us in your mighty and loving arms. Help your church to listen for your voice, especially when the voices of sin, idolatry, and oppression threaten to overpower us. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A The green pastures, still waters, and dark valleys of this earth all belong to you, O Lord. Sustain your creation with a love that is both mighty and just. Where there is destruction, bring healing. Where there is desolation, bring abundance. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You proclaim sheperding love, comfort, and protection for all people and all of creation. Direct leaders in our own time to learn from your example and instruction. Give them servant hearts, that they generously seek the good of all. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You journey with us wherever our paths may lead. We pray for those feeling overwhelmed by anxiety or depression or suffering in any way. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You are the sheepgate that gives safety to your beloved flocks. Provide protection for refugees, victims of domestic violence, those who are imprisoned, and all people who are vulnerable to violence and mistreatment. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You call your sheep by name and lead them through the valley of death. We give you thanks for those who have died and now dwell in your house forever. Be with those who mourn, and give them hope in the promise of the resurrection. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

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 Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord.

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, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. 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 (Setting 10, ELW p. 207)**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

✘ **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe.... With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P O God of resurrection and new life...: Grace our table with your presence.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P Reveal yourself to us.... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P With your holy ones... O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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 Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

✠ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

✠ COMMUNION HYMN – You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (ELW #484)

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✠ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

✠ BLESSING

P The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

C Amen.

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ SENDING HYMN – God Be with You Till We Meet Again (ELW #536) just the 1st verse

✠ DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C Thanks be to God.

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✠SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal
Music Director:	John Zacharias
Altar Care:	Kris Davies
Assisting Minister:	Julie Schmidt
Lay Reader:	Mel Hammer
Usher:	Kris Davies
Videographer:	Gene Davies
Communion Cup Holder:	Kyle Bennett
Sunday School Teacher:	

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