



*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



*May 14, 2023*  
*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

# Gathering

## ✠ INTRODUCTION

*Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.*

## ✠ 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 – Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove (ELW #404)

## ✘ 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. Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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 17:22-31

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

<sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## ✘ RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 66:8-20

<sup>8</sup>Bless our God, you peoples;  
let the sound of praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup>**Our God has kept us among the living  
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

<sup>11</sup>**You brought us into the net;  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

<sup>12</sup>You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup>**I will enter your house with burnt offerings  
and will pay you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup>those that I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup>**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;  
I will give you oxen and goats.**

<sup>16</sup>Come and listen, all you who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

<sup>17</sup>**I called out to God with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup>If I had cherished evil in my heart,  
the Lord would not have heard me;

<sup>19</sup>**but in truth God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

## ✕ SECOND LESSON – 1 Peter 3:13-22

<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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!

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

✘ **GOSPEL – John 14:15-21**

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

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

<sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

## ✘ SERMON

### ✘ HYMN OF THE DAY – As a Mother Comforts Her Child (ACS #1015)

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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 God our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers, anyone grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. Support all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Almighty God, you give life and breath to all things. We give thanks for the apostle Matthias and all your saints. Sustain us by your love until we join the saints in glory. 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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.

## ✠ EUCHARISTIC 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 – We Place Upon Your Table, Lord (ELW #467)

## ✠ 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 – **Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth (ELW #735)** *sung to the melody “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

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## ✘ 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.**

## Monthly Bible Study

Monthly Bible Study will meet on **Tuesday, May 16 at 10 a.m.** in the You Fellowship Hall. Since we celebrate Mother's Day in May and Father's Day in June, we will explore the stories in the Bible dealing with parents.

All are invited to join us and bring a friend and your Bible. **Contact Hattie at 972-637-3191** for a ride or for more information.



## Giving to Grand Prairie Food and Clothing Co-op

Items needed at this time include more canned peas! Our Lenten food drive of 60 lbs. canned peas will be credited in their poundage for April. In addition to peas, the Co-op needs:

- Personal hygiene items - toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and shampoo (no travel sizes please).
- Clothing needed at this time include men's jeans (sizes 30, 32, 34) and men's shoes (all sizes).
- Towels and sheets (double and Queen) are always welcome.

Any of the above items can be brought to the church and placed in the bin provided in the Narthex. **THANKS!!!** - for helping us be Disciples of Jesus by serving our community in this way.

## ✠SERVING TODAY

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

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