



*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



*July 16, 2023*  
*7<sup>th</sup> Sunday After*  
*Pentecost*

# Gathering

## ✘ INTRODUCTION

*God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.*

## ✘ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors. Merciful God,

C **we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Righteous God,

C **we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

## ✘ GATHERING HYMN – God of the Fertile Fields (ACS #1063)

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# Word

## ✘ FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 55:10-13

- <sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it  
bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
<sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## ✘ RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 65:1-13

- <sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows be fulfilled.  
<sup>2</sup>**To you, the one who answers prayer,  
to you all flesh shall come.**  
<sup>3</sup>Our sins are stronger than we are,  
but you blot out our transgressions.  
<sup>4</sup>**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!  
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,  
by the holiness of your temple.**  
<sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,  
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.  
<sup>6</sup>**You make firm the mountains by your power;  
you are girded about with might.**

- <sup>7</sup>You still the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.
- <sup>8</sup>**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**
- <sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;  
the river of God is full of water.  
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.
- <sup>10</sup>**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**
- <sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- <sup>12</sup>**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy.**
- <sup>13</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys  
cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

## ✠ SECOND LESSON – Romans 8:1-11

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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 – (ACS, Setting 11, p. 14)**

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris'n in - deed.

✘ **GOSPEL – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

**P** The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!”

<sup>18</sup>“Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

## ✠ SERMON

## ✠ HYMN OF THE DAY – O God, Whose Word Well-Planted (ACS # 975)

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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 Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A Guide your church, O God, to sow seeds of forgiveness and righteousness on good soil. Direct your people to proclaim your love in this congregation and throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Sustain your creation, O God, by sending favorable weather, causing trees and fields to grow, protecting waterways from pollution, and instilling in all people the need to be good stewards. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Maintain peace among all people, O God, and raise up lawyers to work for justice in the courts, advocates to speak for the downtrodden, and politicians to work on behalf of the common good. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Heal those who are sick, O God. Guide health care workers to care for those who suffer, scientists to conduct lifesaving research, and counselors to care for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Answer the prayers of those gathered in worship, O God. Protect those who travel near and far, accompany visitors to this congregation, and nurture our faith. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Inspire us by the faithful departed, O God, examples of your embodied love, whose confidence in the resurrection guides us in living lives worthy of the gospel. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**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 to the altar.*

*As this happens, please stand as you are able for the Offering Prayer and the Meal.*

## ✘ OFFERING PRAYER

A God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting 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 (ACS #1089)

### Holy, Holy, Holy *Santo, santo, santo*

*San - to, san - to, san - to, oh Dios del u - ni - ver - so:*  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of might and mer - cy,

*. . . lle-nos es-tán el cie - lo y la tie - rra de tu glo - ria.*  
your glo - ry fills all heav-en and earth. . . . You are ho - ly, God.

*Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en nom - bre del Se - ñor. . . .*  
. . . . Bless - ed be the Sav - ior, the one who comes in your name.

*Ho - san - na en el cie - lo. San - to e - res, oh Dios.*  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Traditional; English text, hymnal version  
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional  
English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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## ✠ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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 All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

## ✠ **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

## ✠ **COMMUNION HYMN – Let Us Break Bread Together (ELW #471)**

## ✠ **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## ✠ **BLESSING**

P The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed † bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

**C Amen.**

## ✠ **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## ✠ **SENDING HYMN – On What Has Now Been Sown (ELW #550)**

## ✠ **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## ✠ **SERVING TODAY**

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal
Music Director:	John Zacharias
Altar:	Leah Adix
Assisting Minister:	Kris Davies
Lay Reader:	Jeff Adix
Usher:	Adix Family
Videographer:	Gene Davies/Mel Hammer
Communion Cup Holder:	Kyle Bennett

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