



*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



*September 3, 2023  
14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After  
Pentecost*

# Gathering

## ✘ INTRODUCTION

*The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.*

## ✘ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be God, the one who forms us, + Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C **Amen.**

P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Faithful and steadfast God,

C **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C **Amen.**

## ✘ GATHERING HYMN – Blest Be the Tie That Binds (ELW #656)

## ✘ 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.**

## ✘ **NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION – (ELW #167)**

*Refrain:* Now the feast and celebration,  
All of creation sings for joy  
To the God of love and life and freedom;  
Praise and glory for evermore!

1. Now is the feast of the lamb once slain,  
Whose blood has freed and united us  
To be one great people of God. *Refrain*

2. Power and riches, wisdom and might,  
All honor and glory to Christ forever. *Refrain*

3. For God has come to dwell with us,  
To make us people of God;  
To make all things new. *Refrain*

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## ✘ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A Let us pray. O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

# Word

## ✘ **FIRST LESSON – Jeremiah 15:15-21**

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,

and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### ✘ **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 26:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;

I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

<sup>2</sup>**Test me, O LORD, and try me;**

**examine my heart and my mind.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes;

I have walked faithfully with you.

<sup>4</sup>**I have not sat with the worthless,**

**nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of evildoers;

I will not sit down with the wicked.

<sup>6</sup>**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,**

**that I may go in procession round your altar,**

<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving

and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

<sup>8</sup>**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell**

**and the place where your glory abides.**

### ✘ **SECOND LESSON – Romans 12:9-21**

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice,

weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>20</sup>No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

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 16:21-28

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

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

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

<sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” <sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? <sup>27</sup>“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

## ✘ SERMON

### ✘ HYMN OF THE DAY Will You Come and Follow Me (ELW #798)

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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 Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

A God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor. Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**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 meal.*

## ✘ OFFERING PRAYER

A God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus 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; 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 - ELW Setting Three (p. 144)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## ✘ 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 Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

## ✘ LAMB OF GOD – ELW Setting Three (p. 146)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## ✘ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

## ✘ COMMUNION HYMN – Take My Life, That I May Be (ELW #685)

## ✠ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

## ✠ BLESSING

P The God of glory, ✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

## ✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ SENDING HYMN – Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (ELW #545)

## ✠ DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C Thanks be to God.

- Next Sunday – “God’s Work, Our Hands”
- Bible Study resumes Tuesday, September 19 at 10 a.m.
- Contribution stations for next Sunday and for GPHOO are in the Narthex

## ✠ SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal
Music Director:	John Zacharias
Altar:	Renee Swanjord
Assisting Minister:	Renee Swanjord
Lay Reader:	Hattie Hammer
Usher:	Julie Bothun
Videographer:	Steve Curry
Communion Cup Holder:	Meleah Zapata

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