



*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



*October 22, 2023  
21<sup>st</sup> Sunday After  
Pentecost*

# Gathering

## ✘ INTRODUCTION

*In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the 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 – Making Their Way (ACS #979)

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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.**

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

*Refrain:* Now the feast and celebration,  
All of creation sings for joy  
To the God of life and love 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. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord

C **Amen.**

# Word

## ✘ **FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 45:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed:

<sup>2</sup>I will go before you and level the mountains,

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron,

<sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

<sup>4</sup>For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me.

<sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,

<sup>6</sup>so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west,  
that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.

<sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe;

I the LORD do all these things.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### ✘ **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 96:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations  
and God's wonders among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,  
more to be feared than all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

### ✘ **SECOND LESSON – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. <sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

<sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup>For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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 (ELW #175)

The image shows a musical score for a Gospel Acclamation. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a Soprano part (treble clef) and a Bass part (bass clef). The lyrics are 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The music is in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line.

*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community  
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## ✘ GOSPEL – Matthew 22:15-22

P The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

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

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” <sup>21</sup>They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

## ✘ SERMON

### ✘ HYMN OF THE DAY – When Our Song Says Peace (ELW #709)

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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 Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

A Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering. Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. Direct the work of church treasurers, councils, and all who manage financial matters. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom. God of grace,

**C help our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through 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 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 Four (p. 153)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

## ✘ 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

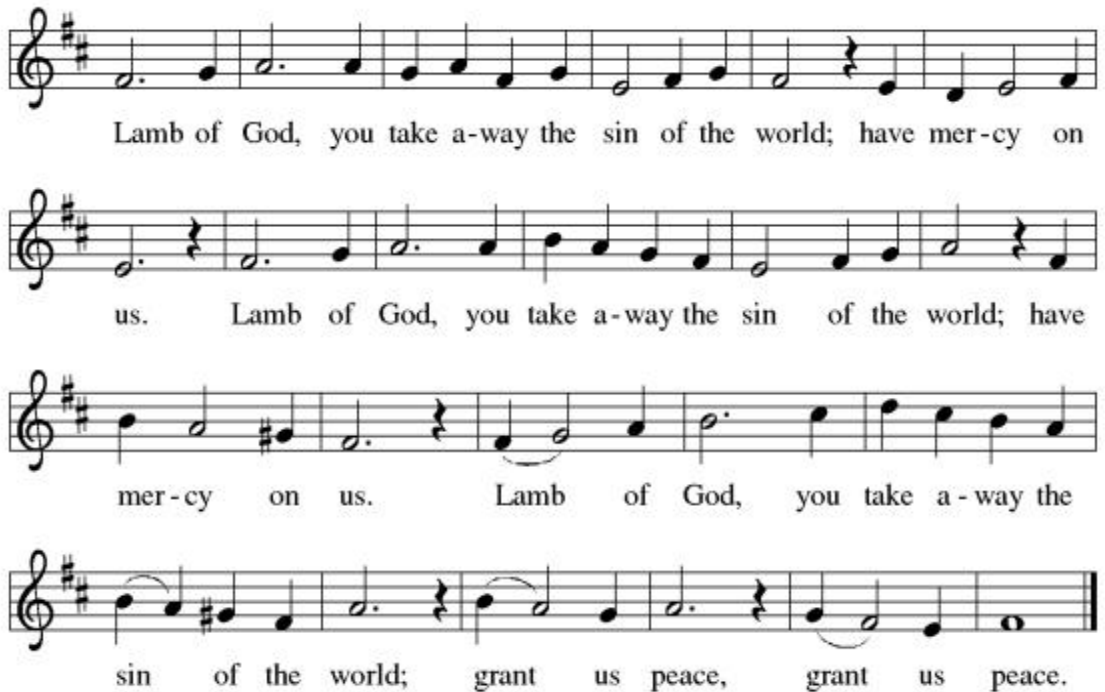
P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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 Four (p. 154)



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, grant us peace.

## ✘ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

## ✘ COMMUNION HYMN – We Come to the Hungry Feast (ELW #479)

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## ✠ 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 – Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (ELW #674)

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## ✠ DISMISSAL

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

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*Early Voting on Amendment Propositions begins Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church's fellowship hall will be a Dallas County voting site through Election Day on November 7<sup>th</sup>. **Here is the schedule:***

October 23 – 27	Monday- Friday	8:00 AM -5:00 PM
October 28	Saturday	7:00 AM -7:00 PM
October 29	Sunday	12:00 PM -6:00 PM
October 30 – November 3	Monday- Friday	7:00 AM -7:00 PM
November 7	Tuesday	7:00 AM -7:00 PM

## ✠ SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal
Music Director:	John Zacharias
Altar:	Nina Wallace-Martinez
Assisting Minister:	Renee Swanjord
Lay Reader:	Steve Curry
Usher:	Nino Martinez
Videographer:	Mel Hammer
Communion Cup Holder:	Cassi Bennett

Children in attendance are welcome to break away during our services with our Sunday School teachers. Those teachers include Cheri Oertel (director), Julie Bothun, Katie Valencia and Phyllis Bell.

If anyone would be interested in volunteering once a month to teach Sunday School during the service, please contact the church office or talk to Cheri Oertel.

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