



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



November 19, 2023
25th Sunday After
Pentecost

Gathering

✠ INTRODUCTION

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

✠ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy One,

C **we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation.**

Amen.

P Beloved, we are God’s children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through ✠ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

C **Amen.**

✠ GATHERING HYMN – Come, Ye Thankful People, Come (ELW #693)

✠ 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 Seven (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. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

.C Amen.

Word

✘ FIRST LESSON – Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.”

- ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.
- ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.
- ¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
- ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
- ¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
- ¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

✠ RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 90:1-9, 12

- ¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
- ²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**
- ³You turn us back to the dust and say,
“Turn back, O children of earth.”
- ⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**
- ⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
- ⁶**in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
- ⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
- ⁸**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹²**So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

✘ **SECOND LESSON – 1 Thessalonians 5:13-18**

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.

¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.

¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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)**



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score consists of two systems of vocal parts. Each system has a soprano line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The music is in a simple, rhythmic style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line.

✘ GOSPEL – Matthew 25:14-30

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

C Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.

¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

✘ SERMON

✘ HYMN OF THE DAY – There Is a Longing in Our Hearts, O Lord (ACS #1078)

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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 Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We pray especially for those who we name before you now, either silently or aloud.... Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and 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 to the altar.

As this happens, please stand as you are able for the offering prayer and meal.

✠ OFFERING PRAYER

A God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

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)



✠ 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 There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

✠ LAMB OF GOD – ELW Setting Four (p. 154)

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace, grant us peace.**

✘ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

✘ COMMUNION HYMN – We Praise You, O God (ELW #870)

✘ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

C **Amen.**

✘ BLESSING

P May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C **Amen.**

✘ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✘ SENDING HYMN – Let All Things Now Living (ELW #881)

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✘ DISMISSAL

P Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Monthly Bible Study - Tuesday, November 21 at 10 a.m.

Our Bible Study this fall explores what "Holy Places" means, not only in the Holy Land of the Bible but for each of us wherever we may be. This month we will focus on Jesus and his life and teachings. Be sure to join us and bring a friend. Hattie Hammer will lead this month's study. Hope to see you on the 21st.

✠ SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal
Music Director:	John Zacharias
Altar:	Kris Davies
Assisting Minister:	Julie Schmidt
Lay Reader:	Kris Davies
Usher:	The Adix Family
Videographer:	Cheri Oertel
Communion Cup Holder:	Kyle 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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