



**OUR REDEEMER**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
GRAND PRAIRIE

*You are welcome here!*  
**We are disciples of Jesus, growing  
in Faith, Hope, and Love**

**Address**

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**Worship Times**

Sunday 10:15 am  
Wednesday 7:00 pm



**Pastor**

Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal



*January 7, 2024*  
*Baptism of Our Lord*

# Gathering

## ✠ INTRODUCTION

*Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.*

## ✠ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God, our rock and refuge,

**C we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.**

**Amen.**

P The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

**C Amen.**

## ✠ GATHERING HYMN – Baptized and Set Free (ELW #453)

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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.**

## ✘ GLORY TO GOD – (ELW Setting Five, p.159)



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -  
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes  
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,  
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to  
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we  
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.  
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.  
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

## ✘ PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray. Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, 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 – Genesis 1:1-5

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## ✘ RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 29

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the <sup>1</sup>LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God’s name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

## ✘ SECOND LESSON – Acts 19:1-7

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” <sup>3</sup>Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” <sup>4</sup>Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—  
<sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.*

## ✘ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – (ELW #513)

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff in G major. It is divided into two systems. The first system is marked 'Refrain' and 'Leader' for the first measure, and 'All' for the rest. The lyrics are: 'Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we, Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,'. The second system has two endings, marked '1' and '2'. The lyrics are: 'ne - no la wo - ko - vu, Je - na je - ma, ma, of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.'.

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## ✘ GOSPEL – Mark 1:4-11

P The Holy Gospel, according to Mark, the first chapter.

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

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

## ✘ SERMON

### ✘ HYMN OF THE DAY– Down Galilee's Slow Roadways (ACS #916)

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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 As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering, especially those we name before you now, silently or aloud. *(pause)* God of grace,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace,

**C receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, 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 Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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 Six p. 173)**



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,  
heav - en 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.

✘ **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P With this bread and cup...

We look with hope for his coming.

**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit...

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P All praise and glory are yours...

one God, 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 At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

## ✘ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

## ✘ COMMUNION HYMN – Beautiful Savior (ELW #838)

## ✘ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

C Amen.

## ✘ NUNC DIMITTIS – O Lord, Now Let Your Servant (ELW #313) vs. 1

Oh Lord, now let your servant depart in heavenly peace,  
For I have seen the glory of your redeeming grace;  
A light to lead the nations unto your holy hill,  
The glory of your people, the chosen Israel.

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## ✘ BLESSING

P God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
✚ bless you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

## ✘ ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ✘ SENDING HYMN – When Jesus Came to Jordan (ELW #305)

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✠ **DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

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## ✠ SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal
Music Director:	John Zacharias
Altar:	Nina Wallace-Martinez
Assisting Minister:	Julie Schmidt
Lay Reader:	Mel Hammer
Usher:	Julie Bothun
Videographer:	Steve Curry
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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