



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



April 14, 2024
Third Sunday of Easter

Gathering

✘ INTRODUCTION

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

✘ THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

C **Amen.**

P Look, here is water!

C **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

C **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Look, here is water!

C **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

✘ GATHERING HYMN – As We Gather at Your Table (ELW #522)

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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**– (same melody as Setting Ten, “Ode to Joy”)

Glory be to God the Father!
Glory be to God the Son!
Glory be to God the Spirit!
God eternal, Three in One!
Glory be to God who loved us,
Washed from us each spot and stain!
Glory be to him who bought us,
Now with God on high to reign!

✘ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A Let us pray. Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of 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 – Acts 3:12-19**

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?”¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

✘ RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 4

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

²**“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”**

³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me when I call.

⁴**Tremble, then, and do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶**Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”
Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

⁷You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when grain and wine abound.

⁸**In peace, I will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

✘ SECOND LESSON – 1 John 3:1–7

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

²Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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 – Be Not Afraid (ELW #388)

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community. Music: Jacques Berthier.

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✘ GOSPEL – Luke 24:36b-48

P The Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

✘ SERMON

✘ HYMN OF THE DAY – Christ is Living (ACS #934)

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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 Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

A O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty especially those we bring before you now, either silently or aloud. (*pause*) God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose during our ministry to those in need of food, clothing, and shelter. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died. As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living 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. Please stand, as you are able.

✠ OFFERING PRAYER

A Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

✕ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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✠ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe... With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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 The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

✠ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

✠ COMMUNION HYMN – Here Is Bread (ELW #483)

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Text and Music: Graham Kendrick

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✠ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C Amen.

✘ THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE - (ELW #207)



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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✘ BLESSING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

C **Amen.**

✘ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ **SENDING HYMN – Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen (ELW #548)**
(to the melody of “Angels from the Realms of Glory”)

- 1 Rise, O church, like Christ arisen,
from this meal of love and grace;
may we through such love envision
whose we are, and whose, our praise.
Alleluia, alleluia;
God, the wonder of our days.
- 2 Rise, transformed, and choose to follow
after Christ, though wounded, whole;
broken, shared, our lives are hallowed
to release and to console.
Alleluia, alleluia;
Christ, our present, past, and goal.
- 3 Rise, remember well the future
God has called us to receive;
present by God's loving nurture,
Spirited then let us live.
Alleluia, alleluia;
Spirit, grace by whom we live.
- 4 Service be our sure vocation;
courage be our daily breath;
mercy be our destination
from this day and unto death.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Rise, O church, a living faith.

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✠ **DISMISSAL**

- P Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

✠ SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal
Music Director:	John Zacharias
Altar Care:	Cindy Dolezal
Assisting Minister:	Cindy Dolezal
Lay Reader:	Phyllis Bell
Usher:	Julie Bothun
Videographer:	Steve Curry
Communion Cup Holder:	Kyle Bennett

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