



**OUR REDEEMER**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
GRAND PRAIRIE

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

**Address**

4729 S. Carrier Parkway  
Grand Prairie, TX 75052



**Phone**

972-642-5683



**Website**

[www.OurRedeemerGP.org](http://www.OurRedeemerGP.org)



**Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/  
OurRedeemerLutheranGP](http://www.facebook.com/OurRedeemerLutheranGP)



**Worship Times**

Sunday 10:15 am  
Wednesday 7:00 pm



**Pastor**

Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal



*July 26, 2020*  
*Eighth Sunday after*  
*Pentecost*

# Gathering

## ✠INTRODUCTION

*As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!*

## ✠CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C Amen.

P Reconciling God,

C **we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

P Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

## ✠HYMN OF REFLECTION – Hear Our Prayer (ELW #178)

Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:  
peace to all people, hope for each soul.  
God of peace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

Hear Our Prayer, Paul Address

© 2006, Augsburg Fortress, All rights reserved.

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #735766-A. All rights reserved.

## ✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

A The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

## Word

### ✠ FIRST LESSON – Romans 8:26-39

*These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.*

<sup>6</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## ✠ **GOSPEL – Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

*Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.*

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

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

<sup>31</sup>He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

<sup>44</sup>The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>Have you understood all this? They answered, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

## ✠ **SERMON**

## ✠HYMN OF THE DAY – You Are the Seed (WOV # 753)

1 You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;  
you're a star that will shine in the night;  
you are the yeast and a small grain of salt,  
a beacon to glow in the dark.  
You are the dawn that will bring a new day;  
you're the wheat that will bear golden grain;  
you are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,  
to witness wherever you go.

*Refrain* Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaim the great love of God;  
messengers to tell the way of life, peace and pardon for all.  
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead Christ arose;  
“Lo, I'll be with you forevermore, till the end of the world.”

2 You are the flame that will lighten the dark,  
so resplendent with hope, faith, and love;  
you are the shepherds to lead the whole world  
to waters and pastures of peace.  
“You are the friends that I chose for myself,  
you're the word that I want to proclaim.  
You are the new reign of God built on rock,  
where justice and truth are at home.”

*Refrain*

3 You are the life that will nurture the plant;  
you're the waves in a turbulent sea;  
yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise,  
a new loaf of bread it will yield.  
There is no place for a city to hide,  
there's no mountain can cover its might;  
let your light shine so that your loving works  
give honor and glory to God.

*Refrain*

You Are the Seed / translation - Gutiérrez-Achon/Chávez-Melo  
Words - ©1989 United Methodist Publishing House, All rights reserved.  
Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #735766-A. All rights reserved.

## ✠ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P From our many locations, yet held in one body by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

P For the church, O God of mercy, we pray. Open your word to Christians around the world. Reveal yourself to us in ways both traditional and surprising, in places old and new. Bless our bishops, pastors, deacons, and other church leaders, as they face their challenging tasks. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P For education and nurture in the church, O God of wisdom, we pray. Give us the will to seek your wisdom. Guide the many churches in their uses of technology, and show us during this time ways to study your word. As this week we commemorate J. S. Bach and other musicians, accompany all church musicians as they seek to help the church offer its praise. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P For the earth, O creative God, we pray. Give to plants and animals the water and land they require. Form us into grateful and healing caretakers of your earth. Bless the efforts of scientists and researchers, especially those seeking a vaccine. Lead all people to honor the scientific discoveries that you grant to humankind. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P For the nations, O God of justice, we pray. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and to resist the ways of violence. Stifle the lust for conquest. Bring peace to the Middle East. Visit the people of Hong Kong. Move us away from racist attitudes and policies. Form our president, governor, and legislators to speak with honesty, to strive for justice, and to work to alleviate the nation's needs. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P For all in need, O God of compassion, we pray. Heal the sick (*especially those we name before you now, silently or aloud...*). Feed the hungry. House the refugee. Comfort the countless thousands who are dealing with the coronavirus. Accompany those living with anxiety and despair. Form us to be your arms of mercy. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P For the youth, O God of grace, we pray. Give to the youth of afflicted nations an inspiring dream of what their future might be. Give them patience to await a time of safety. Direct all schools from daycare through graduate school to find an acceptable way forward. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P In gratitude for the lives of our beloved dead, we pray that nothing, neither death nor life, will separate us from your love. At the end, gather us with all your saints in light everlasting. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C Amen.**

### ✠PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

### ✠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.**

### ✠BLESSING

P Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

**C Amen.**

### ✠ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ **SENDING HYMN – Jesus, the Very Thought of You (ELW #754)**

- 1 Jesus, the very thought of you fills us with sweet delight;  
but sweeter far your face to view and rest within your light.
- 2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind recall  
a sweeter sound than your blest name, O Savior of us all!
- 3 O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul, O Joy of all the meek,  
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
- 4 O Jesus, be our joy today; help us to prize your love;  
grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home above."

✠ **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Copyright info**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS002056.

Permission to reprint, podcast and/or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #735766-A valid for 06/30/2020 – 06/29/2021. All rights reserved.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.