



**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



*August 23, 2020*  
*Twelfth Sunday after*  
*Pentecost*

# Gathering

## ✠INTRODUCTION

*Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission.*

## ✠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 – Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am (ELW #814)

*Sing three times*

Take, oh, take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

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## ✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

A The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A Let us pray. O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

## Word

### ✠ FIRST LESSON – Romans 12:1-8

*In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

<sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## ✠ GOSPEL – Matthew 16:13-20

*At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.*

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

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

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

## ✠ SERMON

### ✠ HYMN OF THE DAY – Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me (ELW #767)

- 1 Lord, take my hand and lead me upon life's way;  
direct, protect, and feed me from day to day.  
Without your grace and favor I go astray;  
so take my hand, O Savior, and lead the way.
- 2 Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;  
for you, the Rock of Ages, are always near.  
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,  
for when your hand is guiding, in peace I go.
- 3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen and night has come,  
I know that you will strengthen my steps toward home,  
then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!  
So, take my hand and lead me unto the end.

## ✠ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Held together in one body by the Spirit of Christ, let us pray for the church and the world.

*A brief silence.*

P Bless the church, that despite the hardships experienced during this pandemic, Christians around the globe will stand firm on the rock, who is Christ. Support pastors, deacons, and congregational committees during this difficult time. Give wisdom to churches that are considering when and how to resume their communal worship schedule. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Bless the earth, that it be saved from ecological harm. Restore all lands and seas to the beauty and vigor that you intend. Protect animals whose habitat is endangered. Train us to be gardeners of your creation. We pray for those suffering the effects of destructive summer storms and scorching heat. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Bless the leaders of nations, that they govern their people with integrity and attend to the needs of the poor. Guard the United States from violence. Give clear purpose to protestors and to police. Inspire our political parties to conduct the election season with honesty and respect for all. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Bless our various means of communication, our phones, the internet, our postal service, and delivery businesses, that our communities be sustained for fruitful life together. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Bless students, that whether in class or at home they be kept safe and able to learn. Uphold faculty and families and protect all who will be affected by the opening of schools. Form college students to conduct themselves with maturity. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Bless all who are in need; all who have tested positive for the virus; the sick and the dying. We pray for the unemployed; for medical workers; for those seeking a vaccine; for those who are overwhelmed with anxiety about the future. We especially pray for those we name here, silently or aloud... Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Finally, we pray also for ourselves, that with Christ as our rock, we can stand firm.  
Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P We praise you for the lives of all your faithful people. We mourn the death of those we have loved. Bring us at the end, we pray, into the joy and gladness of life together in you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; 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.**

### ✠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 – Praise the Lord! O Heavens (ELW #823)**

- 1 Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, adore him; praise him, angels, in the height;  
sun and moon, rejoice before him; praise him, gleaming stars and light.  
Praise the Lord, for he has spoken; worlds his mighty voice obeyed;  
laws which never shall be broken for their guidance he has made.
- 2 Praise the Lord, for he is gracious; never shall his promise fail.  
God has made his saints victorious; sin and death shall not prevail.  
Praise the God of our salvation; hosts on high, his pow'r proclaim;  
heav'n and earth, and all creation, laud and magnify his name!

✠ **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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