



**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)



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**Worship Times**

Sunday 10:15 am  
Wednesday 7:00 pm



**Pastor**

Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal



*September 27, 2020*  
*Seventeenth Sunday*  
*after Pentecost*

# Gathering

## ✠INTRODUCTION

*Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own.*

## ✠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 – Change My Heart, O God (ELW #801)

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the potter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

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## ✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

A The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A Let us pray. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

## Word

### ✠ FIRST LESSON – Philippians 2:1-13

*As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.*

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death —  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence,  
but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;  
<sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good  
pleasure.

L The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### ✠ **GOSPEL – Matthew 21:23-32**

*After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there.  
His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of  
the temple.*

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

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

<sup>23</sup>When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him  
as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who  
gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you  
tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the  
baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with  
one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe  
him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as  
a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither  
will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and  
work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and  
went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but  
he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus  
said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the  
kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and  
you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even  
after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

## ✠SERMON

### ✠HYMN OF THE DAY – Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (ELW #674)

- 1 Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

#### *Refrain*

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

- 2 Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.

#### *Refrain*

- 3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere!

#### *Refrain*

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## ✠PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- P Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

#### *A brief silence.*

- P Throughout the globe is the church: many assemblies are postponed by the virus, our songs quieted, our leaders searching for new ways forward. We pray to you, faithful God, that you will continue to inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

#### **C Hear our prayer.**

- P Around us nature is strained: polar ice is melting, excessive rains ravage the land, fires consume forests, fields, and homes, and animals are deprived of habitat. We pray to you, mighty God, that you will preserve and protect the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

#### **C Hear our prayer.**

P Around us is a needy world: governments allow injustice, violence threatens stability, people experience prejudice, reforms are thwarted, workers are unemployed, medical facilities are strained, children are abused. We pray to you, compassionate God, that you will save the people in all the nations of the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P In our nation's courts, we see justice delayed and justice denied. Yet we thank you for the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and for her passion for equality under the law. We pray to you, righteous God, that you will uphold honest judges and insightful juries throughout our criminal justice system, and that you will assist our nation in its task of filling the Supreme Court. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Around us are the sick: there is starvation, the virus continues, many persons receive no medical attention, our neighbors and dear ones are ill. We pray to you, merciful God, that you will bless all ministries of care and will relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, especially those we name before you now, silently or aloud... Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Nearby are needs of which we are unaware. We pray to you, benevolent God, that you will send your holy angels to uphold all who face personal troubles. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Inside many hearts there is both joy and sorrow. We pray now for ourselves. Loving God give us new hearts and a new spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Before us lived countless of the faithful — the famous and the forgotten, our relatives and strangers. We lament their deaths, and we praise their witness. We pray to you, eternal God, that we may confess Jesus Christ as Lord through our life and at our death. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through 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 Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**C Amen.**

## ✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ✠ SENDING HYMN – This Is My Father's World (ELW #824)

- 1 This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.
- 2 This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair.  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev'rywhere.
- 3 This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget  
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is king, let heaven ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

## ✠ DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C Thanks be to God.**

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