



**OUR REDEEMER**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
GRAND PRAIRIE

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

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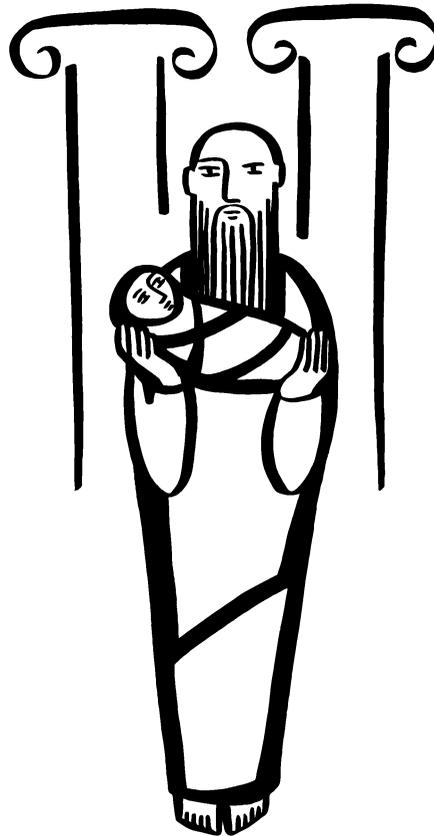
**Worship Times**

Sunday 10:15 am  
Wednesday 7:00 pm



**Pastor**

Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal



*December 27, 2020*  
*First Sunday*  
*of Christmas*

# Gathering

## ✠INTRODUCTION

*The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.*

## ✠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, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

C **Amen.**

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

C **we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

C **Amen.**

## ✠HYMN OF REFLECTION – Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (ELW #276)

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|--|--|
| 1 Infant holy, infant lowly,<br>for his bed a cattle stall;<br>oxen lowing, little knowing<br>Christ the child is Lord of all.<br>Swiftly winging, angels singing,<br>bells are ringing, tidings bringing:<br>Christ the child is Lord of all!<br>Christ the child is Lord of all! | 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping<br>vigil till the morning new<br>saw the glory, heard the story,<br>tidings of a gospel true.<br>Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,<br>praises voicing, greet the morrow:<br>Christ the child was born for you!<br>Christ the child was born for you! |
|--|--|

## ✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

A The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## Word

### ✠FIRST LESSON – Galatians 4:4-7

*Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.*

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### ✠GOSPEL – Luke 2:22-40

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

P The Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the second chapter.

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

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

<sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

## ✠SERMON

### ✠HYMN OF THE DAY – O Lord, Now Let Your Servant (ELW #313)

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|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | O Lord, now let your servant<br>depart in heav'nly peace,<br>for I have seen the glory<br>of your redeeming grace:<br>a light to lead the nations<br>unto your holy hill,<br>the glory of your people,<br>your chosen Israel. | 2 | Then grant that I may follow<br>your gleam, O glorious Light,<br>till earthly shadows scatter,<br>and faith is changed to sight;<br>till raptured saints shall gather<br>upon that shining shore,<br>where Christ, the blessed daystar,<br>shall light them evermore. |
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## ✠ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P On this first Sunday after Christmas Day, let us pray for all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

P O God, Abba-Father, Son, and Spirit: bless your church throughout the world with the joy of your salvation and with perseverance through this time of limited assembly worship. Make our homes like temples filled with your praise. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P In the cold north, keep safe your whole creation until springtime arrives. Protect the underground seeds and the hibernating animals. Make snowfall into a blessing. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth in every land. Inspire leaders to serve with compassion and integrity, caring for the common good. Bring peace within and between the nations. Accompany the United Kingdom as it finds its new way forward. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P As 2020 comes to its end, we ask you to help us overcome its heartaches and to welcome 2021 with hope. Keep revelers safe from contagion. In the New Year, give all peoples an increase of health and harmony. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, or health care. Embrace those isolated by dementia, and connect young and old across generations. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P This week we remember before you the infants of Bethlehem slain by King Herod. Protect all children around the world from abuse, hunger, and abandonment. Give to all children a loving home and stable education, that they may grow strong and live filled with wisdom. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Come to all who are in need, the hungry, the homeless, the war-torn. Guide us in and through this fearsome pandemic. Visit those sick with COVID-19. Comfort all who live with depression or fear. Abide with all for whom the holiday season is overwhelmed by sorrow. We pray especially for those we name before you, silently or aloud. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P As Simeon held the infant Jesus in his arms, we now ask you to hold us in your care, O loving God. Adopt us as your own, and listen to our silent prayers. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P We praise you for all who have died in the faith: for the apostle and evangelist John, and for those we name before you silently or aloud. And when our own death approaches, let us depart in your peace, ready to join with all your saints in life everlasting. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P O God, Abba-Father, Son, and Spirit: as you received the sacrifices of Mary and Joseph, receive now our prayers, now and forever.

**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 Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day † through the Word made flesh

**C Amen.**

## ✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ✠ SENDING HYMN – Go Tell It on the Mountain (ELW #290)

#### *Refrain*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Go tell it on the mountain,<br>over the hills and ev'rywhere;<br>go tell it on the mountain<br>that Jesus Christ is born!                           | 2 The shepherds feared and trembled<br>when, lo, above the earth<br>rang out the angel chorus<br>that hailed our Savior's birth. <i>Refrain</i> |
| 1 While shepherds kept their watching<br>o'er silent flocks by night,<br>behold, throughout the heavens<br>there shone a holy light. <i>Refrain</i> | 3 Down in a lonely manger<br>the humble Christ was born;<br>and God sent us salvation<br>that blessed Christmas morn. <i>Refrain</i>            |

## ✠ DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.  
C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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