



**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



*March 21, 2021*  
*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

# Gathering

## ✠INTRODUCTION

*God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all 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, the keeper of the covenant,  
the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

C **Amen.**

P God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

C **Fountain of living water, pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

P Beloved, God’s word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

C **Amen.**

## ✠HYMN OF REFLECTION – Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (ELW #752)

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.

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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 steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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 – Jeremiah 31:31-34

*The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### ✠ GOSPEL – John 12:20-33

*Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.*

P The Holy Gospel, according to John, the twelfth chapter.

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

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see

Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

## ✠SERMON

### ✠HYMN OF THE DAY – Seed That in Earth Is Dying (ELW #330)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Seed that in earth is dying<br/>grows into ears of grain.<br/>Grapes that are crushed in the vessel<br/>turn into golden wine.<br/>God, through this mystery grant us<br/>faith in our deepest darkness,<br/>life in our night and death.</p> <p>2 We were baptized in Jesus,<br/>into his death and grave,<br/>to resurrection's promise:<br/>praise and eternal life.<br/>Heaven's own praises begin here<br/>where you yourself are near us,<br/>deep in our night and death.</p> | <p>3 Seed that in earth is dying<br/>rises to bear much fruit.<br/>Christ, as we meet at your table,<br/>give us the bread of life.<br/>Lord, we do thank and adore you!<br/>Unceasing praise of the ages<br/>rises from night and death.</p> |
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## ✠ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P On this fifth Sunday in Lent, let us offer both our laments and our petitions to God.

*A brief silence.*

P O God, we lament that over the past months many Christians have not be able to assemble in person for worship. Many believers have languished alone. And we pray: Strengthen all Christians in every church around the globe in the covenant of their baptism. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and service projects, whether online or in person. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P We lament that by indulging our own desires, we have misused your creation and have worsened the poverty of others. And we pray: Continue your care for the earth you have made. Protect animals and their habitats. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds, and shelter all lands from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P We lament that as a nation we have not insured justice for all and equal access to freedoms and to the necessities of life. We lament ongoing prejudices and violence on our streets and in our homes. And we pray: Bring an end to warfare and terrorism. Imbue our courts with truth and wisdom. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P We lament the sufferings of people the world over. We lament the sorrows of the pandemic. We lament hunger, homelessness, and loneliness. And we pray: End this pandemic. Provide vaccinations to all persons around the earth. Guide us in healing the sick, welcoming the migrant, feeding the hungry, and living with others in harmony. We pray especially for those we name before you now, silently or aloud. . . Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P We lament the hopelessness that afflicts so many people. We lament the anguish of refugee camps, of overcrowded hospitals, of unhappy homes. And we pray: As this Thursday we celebrate the annunciation of the birth of Jesus to Mary, instill in us gratitude for your presence among humankind, for holding us through sorrow, and for leading us into joy. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P We lament our secret sorrows known only to you, and we ask you to receive the prayers of our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P We lament the countless who have died of COVID and the diminishment of life that so many have endured. We praise you for those who have given us words for our lament and our praise, especially today Thomas Cranmer. At the end, bring us with all who have died in Christ into your everlasting presence. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, Father of glory, in your bountiful Spirit, and in the name of Christ, our great high priest, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### ✠PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

## *Meal*

### ✠GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

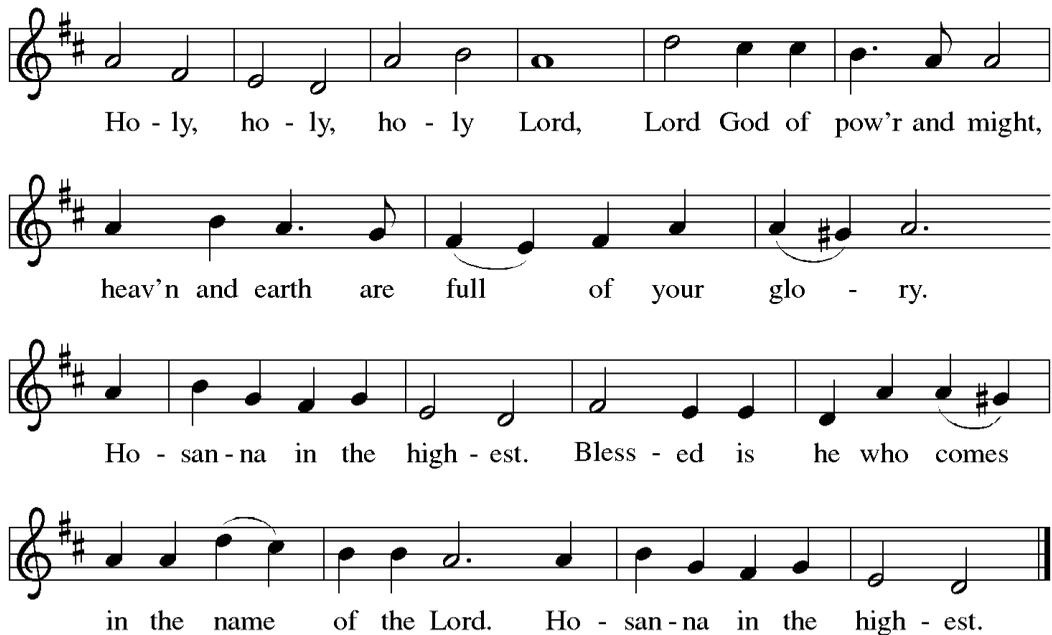
**C We lift them to the Lord.**

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### ✠HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Setting 4, p. 153)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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## ✠ Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## ✠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 You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you † that you may be a blessing,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**C Amen.**

## ✠ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ✠SENDING HYMN – O Christ the Same

- 1 O Christ the same, through all our story's pages--  
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;  
eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,  
unchanging still amid the passing years:  
O living Word, the source of all creation,  
who spread the skies and set the stars ablaze;  
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,  
we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.
- 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing  
our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide;  
still as of old upon your body bearing  
the marks of love in triumph glorified.  
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven--  
O Prince of life, in all your saving power;  
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given:  
we bring our thanks for this the present hour.
- 3 O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping  
our lives and loves, our days and years remain;  
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,  
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:  
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,  
for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;  
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,  
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

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## ✠DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

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