



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



April 28, 2021
Worship with
Holy Communion

Gathering

✠INTRODUCTION

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

✠THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

✠HYMN OF REFLECTION – Be Not Afraid (ELW #388)

Be not afraid, sing out for joy!

Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid, sing out for joy!

Christ is risen, alleluia!

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community. Music: Jacques Berthier.

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✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through 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 – 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

✠ GOSPEL – John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

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

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

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

✠ SERMON

✠ HYMN OF THE DAY – Take My Life, That I May Be (ELW #583)

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

1 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee. *Refrain*

2 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. *Refrain*

3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee. *Refrain*

4 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne. *Refrain*

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✠ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P During this Easter season, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all in any need.

A brief silence.

P God of goodness and mercy, we pray for the church: that bishops and pastors be upheld in their tasks as shepherds of your flock; and that congregations persevere in their ministries of nurture of the young and care for the aging. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P We pray for members of other world religions: that there be an end to interreligious strife; that Sikhs be comforted in their sorrow; and that during Ramadan Muslims be strengthened for lives of prayer and service. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P We pray for the earth: that green pastures and clear waters be provided for herds and flocks, those raised for human use and those living wild; and that farm fields be saved from storm or drought. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P We pray for the nations of the earth: that governments cease aggression against their neighbors; that peace come to Afghanistan, Syria, and Myanmar; and that China, Russia, and the United States coexist in concord with each other. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P We pray for justice in our land: that our criminal justice system continue to be reformed; that ethnic and economic prejudices cease their holds on our people; and that there be peace in our streets. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P We pray for those who are hungry: the unemployed, the underemployed, those living in refugee camps or on our streets, the migrants seeking a better life; that they be fed. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P We pray for all who are sick or suffering: for those stricken with the coronavirus, especially in India and Brazil; for the children who have known continual sorrow; and for those we name here before you now, silently or aloud. . . . Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P We pray finally for ourselves: that you will receive the petitions of our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P We praise you for all the sheep of your fold, each lamb of your own flock. Especially today we thank you for the evangelist Mark and for his gospel book of faith. Bring us with all the saints to dwell in your house forever. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy, 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.

Meal

✠ GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

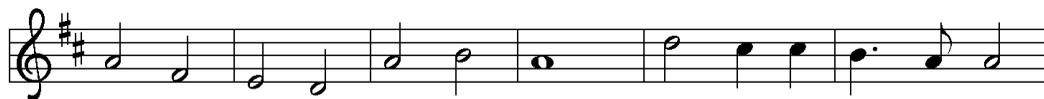
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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.

✠ 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.

✠ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

✠ COMMUNION HYMN – I Come With Joy (ELW #482)

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us
share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.
- 5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

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✠ BLESSING

P May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠SENDING HYMN – Abide With Me (ELW #629) Vs. 1, 3, 5

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.
- 3 I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.
- 5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heav'n's morning breaks,
and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

✠DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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