



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



June 13, 2021
Third Sunday
After Pentecost

Gathering

✠INTRODUCTION

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

✠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 God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C **Amen.**

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

C **God, our provider, help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

P Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C **Amen.**

✠HYMN OF REFLECTION – Lord God, We Praise You (ELW #558)

1 Lord God, we praise you, now the night is over,
active and watchful, standing here before you;
singing, we offer prayer and meditation;
thus we adore you.

- 2 Monarch of all things, fit us for your mansions;
banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending;
bring us to heaven, where your saints united
joy without ending.
- 3 All-holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,
Trinity blessed, send us your salvation;
yours is the glory, gleaming and resounding
through all creation.

✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

- A Let us pray. O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.

Word

✠FIRST LESSON – 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord — ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

✠ **GOSPEL – Mark 4:26-34**

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

P The Holy Gospel, according to Mark, the fourth chapter.

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

²⁶He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

✠ **SERMON**

✠ HYMN OF THE DAY – You Are the Seed

- 1 You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
you're a star that will shine in the night;
you are the yeast and a small grain of salt,
a beacon to glow in the dark.
You are the dawn that will bring a new day;
you're the wheat that will bear golden grain;
you are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,
my witnesses where'er you go.

Refrain

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.

Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;
“Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world.”

- 2 You are the flame that will lighten the dark,
sending sparkles of hope, faith, and love;
you are the shepherds to lead the whole world
through valleys and pastures of peace.
You are the friends that I chose for myself,
the word that I want to proclaim.
You are the new kingdom built on a rock
where justice and truth always reign. *Refrain*

- 3 You are the life that will nurture the plant;
you're the waves in a turbulent sea;
yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise,
a new loaf of bread it will yield.
There is no place for a city to hide,
nor a mountain can cover its might;
may your good deeds show a world in despair
a path that will lead all to God. *Refrain*

Text: Cesáreo Gabaraín; tr. Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon and Skinner Chávez-Melo.

Music: Cesáreo Gabaraín; arr. Skinner Chávez-Melo.

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✠ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Let us unite before God in prayer.

A brief silence.

P Holy God, Fount of blessings, we pray for the church: that the seeds of faith which you plant take root and grow; that those churches that are emerging from the pandemic re-gather their members in safety; and that you bless the church in Ethiopia and other places that are experiencing great distress. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P We pray for the earth: that the trees and plantings in national forests be protected; that farms around the globe be safeguarded from drought, flood, and pestilence; and that wild animals thrive in the habitat they require. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P We pray for the nations: that world leaders care for those in greatest need; that all prejudices cease; that the might of tyrants be halted; that journalists be kept safe from harassment; that the displaced find a welcome homeland; and that peace reign between nations. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P We pray for the aged: that they be embraced by their relatives and friends; and that their many needs be met. And we pray for the children: that they be protected from harm and danger; and that summertime give them opportunity to enjoy nature's bounty. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P We pray for health and wholeness: for countries where COVID-19 is accelerating and vaccines are not available; for relief agencies, that the hungry be fed; for those who are beaten down by poverty and homelessness; for those who are suffering from climate disasters; for any who are sick, especially those with no access to medical care; 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 give us the grace to welcome anything new that comes from you; and that in mercy you receive our private petitions. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P For all who have died in the faith, and for those whom we remember here before you, we offer our thanks, gracious Redeemer. For all who will die today, we ask your mercy. And at the end that we join with all your people in the perfection of your presence, we pray. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P To you we pray, O God, our Source, Sovereign, and Strength, 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.

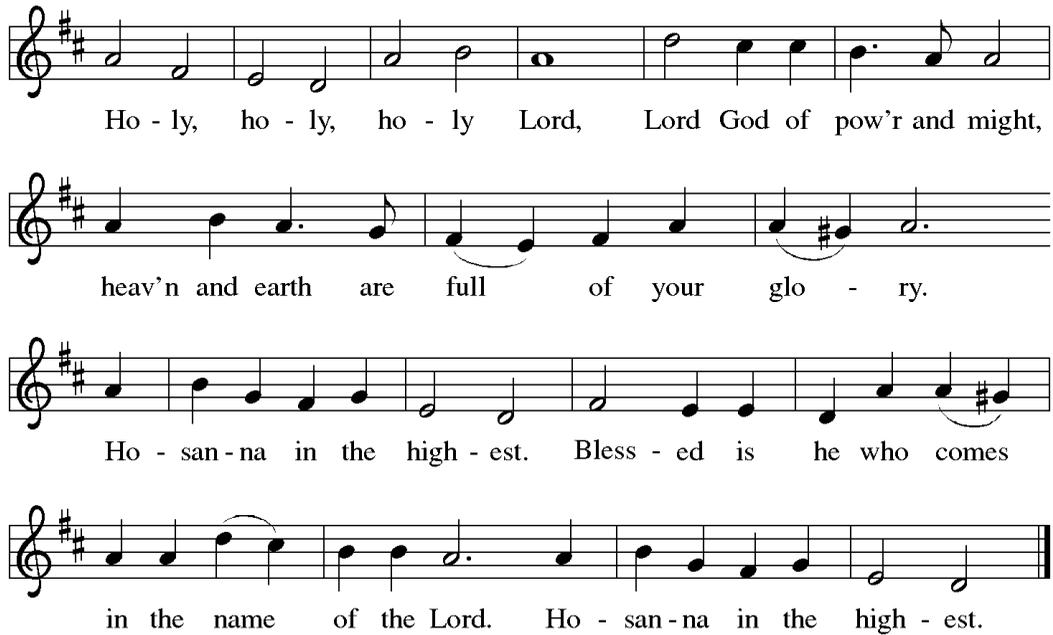
C We lift them to the Lord.

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) *See Next Page*



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.

✠ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

✠ COMMUNION HYMN – Father, We Thank You (ELW #478)

- 1 Father, we thank you that you planted
your holy name within our hearts.
Knowledge and faith and life immortal
Jesus your Son to us imparts.
Lord, you have made all for your pleasure,
and giv'n us food for all our days,
giving in Christ the bread eternal;
yours is the pow'r, yours be the praise.
- 2 Watch o'er your church, O Lord, in mercy,
save it from evil, guard it still;
perfect it in your love, unite it,
cleansed and conformed unto your will.
As grain, once scattered on the hillsides,
was in this broken bread made one,
so from all lands your church be gathered
into your kingdom by your Son.

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✠ BLESSING

P The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.

C Amen.

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠SENDING HYMN – On What Has Now Been Sown (ELW #550)

- 1 On what has now been sown
your blessing, Lord, bestow;
the pow'r is yours alone
to make it sprout and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise,
and yours alone shall be the praise!
- 2 To you our wants are known,
from you are all our pow'rs;
accept what is your own
and pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive
and to your word a blessing give.
- 3 Oh, grant that each of us,
now met before you here,
may meet together thus
when you and yours appear,
and follow you to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!

✠DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
C **Thanks be to God.**

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