



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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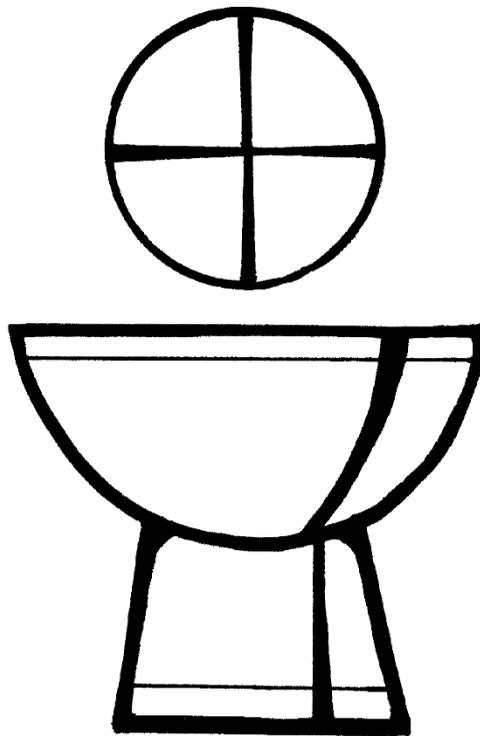
Worship Times

Sunday 10:15 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm



Pastor

Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal



August 15, 2021
Twelfth Sunday
After Pentecost

Gathering

✠INTRODUCTION

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

✠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.**

✠GATHERING HYMN – Come, We That Love the Lord (ELW #625)

1 Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord,
join in a song with sweet accord
and thus surround the throne,
and thus surround the throne.

Refrain

We're marching to Zion,
beautiful, beautiful Zion:
we're marching upward to Zion,
the beautiful city of God.

2 Let those refuse to sing
who never knew our God;
but children of the heav'nly king,
but children of the heav'nly king
may tell their joys abroad,
may tell their joys abroad. *Refrain*

3 The hill of Zion yields
a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heav'nly fields,
before we reach the heav'nly fields,
or walk the golden streets,
or walk the golden streets. *Refrain*

4 Then let our songs abound,
and ev'ry tear be dry;
we're marching through Immanuel's ground,
we're marching through Immanuel's ground,
to fairer worlds on high,
to fairer worlds on high. *Refrain*

✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray. Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Word

✘ **FIRST LESSON – Proverbs 9:1-6**

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

- ¹Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,
⁴"You that are simple, turn in here!"
To those without sense she says,
⁵"Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight."

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

✘ **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 34:9-14**

- ⁹O fear the LORD, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.
¹⁰**The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.**
¹¹Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
¹²**Which of you desires life,
and covets many days to enjoy good?**
¹³Keep your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit.
¹⁴**Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.**

✠ **SECOND LESSON – Ephesians 5:15-20**

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

✠ **GOSPEL – John 6:51-58**

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

✠SERMON

✠HYMN OF THE DAY – We Eat the Bread of Teaching (ELW #518)

Refrain

We eat the bread of teaching,
drink wine of wisdom,
are given here a taste of the kingdom.
Together joined, the greatest and the least,
we all are one at Wisdom's holy feast.

1 Wisdom calls throughout the city,
knows our hunger, and in pity
gives her loving invitation
to the banquet of salvation. *Refrain*

2 Simple ones whose hearts are yearning,
come and gain from Wisdom's learning;
bread and wine she is preparing,
know her loving in the sharing. *Refrain*

3 Enter with delight and singing,
for her richness now is bringing
us this joyful celebration;
eat and drink in jubilation. *Refrain*

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✠PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Let us offer our prayers to God.

A brief silence.

A God our Savior, we pray for the church around the world. Inspire all the baptized to proclaim your greatness in word and deed. Bless church musicians for their weekly ministry. Make your churches places of welcome for all who suffer rejection. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for the earth. Lessen the devastation of climate change. Extinguish wildfires throughout the world. Protect the bees and all endangered animals. By the strength of your arm, save your creation. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for the nations of the world. Inspire elected officials to look with mercy on those in need. Strengthen democracies, and cast down from their thrones all those who are unworthy of the people's trust. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A On this day that commemorates the end of World War II, we pray for world peace. Bless the people of Germany and Japan. Defend the children of Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and other places filled with violence. Give to every nation the resolve to be done with the horrors of warfare. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for those who are poor or oppressed. Help us feed the hungry and raise up the lowly. We pray for pregnant women, both those who are glad and those who are distressed by their condition. Accompany them throughout their labor. Comfort all parents who mourn the death of their children. We ask you to come to the aid of the sick and suffering, especially those we name here before you now, silently or aloud. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for ourselves. Grant each of us wisdom, lead us in the way of insight, and graciously receive our personal petitions. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We praise you, Mighty One, for the mercy shown to our ancestors, to Mary the mother of our Lord, and to all you have brought to yourself. Gather us with all the blessed to live in your presence forever. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We glorify your name, O God, Holy One, Word of salvation, Power of the Most High. Receive our prayers for the sake of 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.

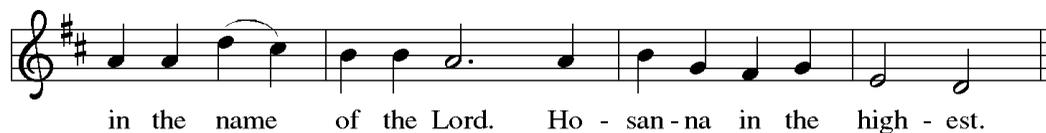
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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)



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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 – 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 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 Our Way Rejoicing (ELW #537)

- 1 On our way rejoicing
gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered;
vanquished is the foe.
Christ without, our safety;
Christ within, our joy;
who, if we be faithful,
can our hope destroy?

Refrain

On our way rejoicing;
as we forward move,
hearken to our praises,
O blest God of love!

- 2 Unto God the Father
joyful songs we sing;
unto God the Savior
thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit
bow we and adore,
on our way rejoicing
now and evermore. *Refrain*

✠ **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

✦SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal
Music Director:	John Zacharias
Altar:	Kris Davies
Assisting Minister:	Kris Davies
Lay Reader:	Julie Bothun
Usher:	Julie Schmidt
Videographer:	Gene Davies

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