



**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 29, 2021*  
*Fourteenth Sunday*  
*After Pentecost*

# Gathering

## ✠INTRODUCTION

*Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.*

## ✠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 – Jesus, We Are Gathered (ELW #529)

Jesus, we are gathered,  
Jesus, we are gathered,  
Jesus, we are gathered,  
we are gathered, Lord Jesus, for you.

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## ✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray. O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

## Word

### ✠FIRST LESSON – Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

*The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.*

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. <sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children--

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## ✠ RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 15

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,  
and speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>who do not slander with their tongue,  
and do no evil to their friends,  
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

<sup>4</sup>**in whose eyes the wicked are despised,  
but who honor those who fear the LORD;  
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**

<sup>5</sup>who do not lend money at interest,  
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

## ✠ SECOND LESSON – James 1:17-27

*The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.*

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act — they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

L The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

✠ **GOSPEL – Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

*Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.'<sup>8</sup> You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

<sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

✠ **SERMON**

## ✠HYMN OF THE DAY – God, Bless the Hands (ACS #1022)

### *Sung to the melody “Faith of Our Fathers”*

- 1 God, bless the hands stretched out in love  
through floods below and storms above;  
they search and rescue, comfort, calm,  
give shelter, offer healing balm.  
Oh, guard them by your steadfast hand;  
reach out in love to help us stand.
- 2 Bring comfort to the hearts that mourn,  
left broken, emptied by the storm.  
Give hope to those in deepest grief;  
empower us to bring relief.  
To you, O God, we raise our hands.  
Save us, we pray, from sinking sands.
- 3 O God, our strength and refuge sure,  
our hope while storms of life endure:  
teach us to live in harmony  
with earth and river, sky and sea,  
preserving waters, air, and lands  
as holy work for human hands.

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## ✠PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- A Whether we meet in assembly or worship from our homes, we join together in prayer for the world. Today, in response to each bid, you are invited to offer your own prayers, silently or aloud, and to conclude each petition with an echo of today’s psalm, “Abide with us.”
- A We pray for the church of Jesus Christ around the world.  
*A time for prayer.*
- A Hear our prayers, O God; **abide with us.**
- A We pray for wisdom concerning church traditions.  
*A time for prayer.*
- A Hear our prayers, O God; **abide with us.**
- A We pray for the pastor and staff of our congregation.  
*A time for prayer.*
- A Hear our prayers, O God; **abide with us.**

- A We pray for the well-being of the created earth.  
*A time for prayer.*
- A Hear our prayers, O God; **abide with us.**
- A We pray for a halt to wildfires.  
*A time for prayer.*
- A Hear our prayers, O God; **abide with us.**
- A We pray for peace throughout the world.  
*A time for prayer.*
- A Hear our prayers, O God; **abide with us.**
- A We pray for nations experiencing adversity of any kind.  
*A time for prayer.*
- A Hear our prayers, O God; **abide with us.**
- A We pray for our elected leaders.  
*A time for prayer.*
- A Hear our prayers, O God; **abide with us.**
- A We pray for an end to prejudices.  
*A time for prayer.*
- A Hear our prayers, O God; **abide with us.**
- A We pray for schools and Sunday schools, the students and teachers.  
*A time for prayer.*
- A Hear our prayers, O God; **abide with us.**
- A We pray for those facing the coronavirus.  
*A time for prayer.*
- A Hear our prayers, O God; **abide with us.**
- A We pray for orphans, widows, and widowers.  
*A time for prayer.*
- A Hear our prayers, O God; **abide with us.**
- A We pray for all who are sick or suffering.  
*A time for prayer.*
- A Hear our prayers, O God; **abide with us.**
- A We pray for those we name here before you:  
*A time for prayer.*
- A Hear our prayers, O God; **abide with us.**

A Finally, we pray for ourselves.

*A time for prayer.*

A Hear our prayers, O God; **abide with us.**

A We give thanks for all the faithful departed, and we pray that at the end we join them in your presence forever.

*A time for prayer.*

A Hear our prayers, O God; **abide with us.**

A O God, in your mercy receive these prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ, master Teacher, 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.

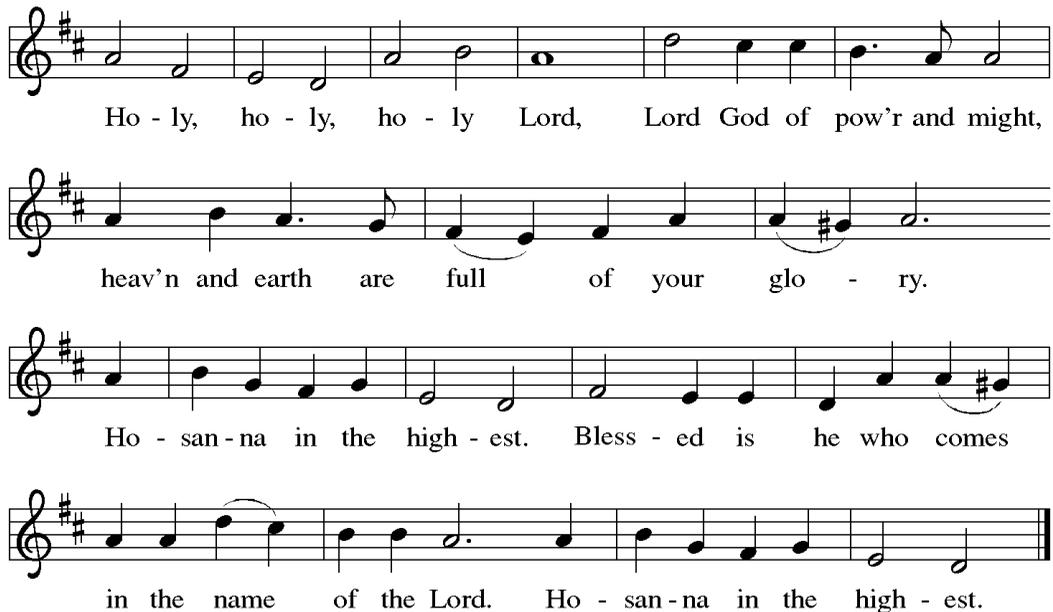
**C We lift them to the Lord.**

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) 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 – You Are Holy (ELW #525)

You are holy, you are whole.  
You are always ever more  
than we ever understand.  
You are always at hand.  
Blessed are you coming near.  
Blessed are you coming here  
to your church in wine and bread,  
raised from soil, raised from dead.  
You are holy,  
you are wholeness,  
you are present.  
Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!  
Sing hosanna in the highest!  
Sing hosanna!  
Sing hosanna to our God!

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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 – O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate (ELW #722)

- 1 O Christ, your heart, compassionate,  
bore ev'ry human pain.  
Its beating was the pulse of God;  
its breadth, God's vast domain.  
The heart of God, the heart of Christ  
combined in perfect rhyme  
to write God's love in human deeds,  
eternity in time.
- 2 As once you welcomed those cast down  
and healed the sick, the blind,  
so may all bruised and broken lives  
through us your help still find.  
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep  
that none may weep alone,  
and help us bear another's pain  
as though it were our own.
- 3 O Christ, create new hearts in us  
that beat in time with yours,  
that, joined by faith with your great heart,  
become love's open doors.  
We are your body, risen Christ;  
our hearts, our hands we yield  
that through our life and ministry  
your love may be revealed.
- 4 O Love that made the distant stars,  
yet marks the sparrow's fall,  
whose arms stretched wide upon a cross  
embrace and bear us all:  
come, make your church a servant church  
that walks your servant ways,  
whose deeds of love rise up to you,  
a sacrifice of praise!

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## ✠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:	Mel Hammer
Lay Reader:	Phil Schrader
Usher:	Julie Schmidt
Videographer:	Steve Curry

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