



**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



*January 23, 2022*  
*Third Sunday after*  
*Epiphany*

# Gathering

## ✠INTRODUCTION

*God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.*

## ✠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, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.**

P Rejoice in this good news: In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

C Amen.

## ✠ GATHERING HYMN – Hail to the Lord’s Anointed (ELW #311)

*Sing to the melody of “The Church’s One Foundation”*

- 1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
your reign on earth begun!  
You come to break oppression,  
to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression  
and rule in equity.
- 2 You come with rescue speedy  
to those who suffer wrong,  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
are precious in your sight.
- 3 You shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth;  
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
spring in your path to birth.  
Before you on the mountains  
shall peace, the herald, go;  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.

## ✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

- A Let us pray. Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

## Word

### ✠ FIRST LESSON – Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

*The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the Lord is your strength.”*

<sup>1</sup>all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early

morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

<sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup>Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

<sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. <sup>9</sup>And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## ✠ **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 19**

<sup>1</sup>The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>**Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.**

<sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;

<sup>4</sup>**yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.**

**In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,**

<sup>5</sup>which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.**

<sup>7</sup>The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

<sup>8</sup>**the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;**

<sup>9</sup>the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**

<sup>11</sup>Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

**<sup>12</sup>But who can detect their errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Keep back your servant also from the insolent;  
do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.

**<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

## ✠ **SECOND LESSON – 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

*The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.*

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup>whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of

power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup>But strive for the greater gifts.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### ✠ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – (ELW #175)**

*Please stand, as you are able, to welcome the Gospel.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier and the Taizé Community.

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### ✠ **GOSPEL – Luke 4:14-21**

*Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.*

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

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

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

### ✠ **SERMON**

✠ **HYMN OF THE DAY – God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage**  
(ELW #509)

God's word is our great heritage  
and shall be ours forever;  
to spread its light from age to age  
shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way;  
in death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant while time shall last  
your church may hold it fast  
throughout all generations.

✠ **APOSTLES’ CREED (ELW p. 105)**

P With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**  
**Amen.**

✠ **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

*A brief silence.*

A You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

A All creation proclaims your handiwork. Teach us to love the intricate and beautiful bodies that you have created. Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between. Sustain species at risk of extinction. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

A You desire that there be no dissension among us. Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

A Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor. Grant provision and justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability, those living with pain, or those living under oppression. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

A Build up the body of Christ in this place. Bless the variety of ministries in this congregation. Empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

A In thanksgiving we lift before you the saints for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled. Tend to those who mourn. Bring us together in your everlasting glory. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

A Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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 - (ACS #1089)



*San - to, san - to, san - to, oh Dios del u - ni - ver - so:*  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of might and mer - cy,



*. . . lle-nos es-tán el cie - lo y la tie - rra de tu glo - ria.*  
 your glo - ry fills all heav-en and earth. . . . You are ho - ly, God.



*Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en nom - bre del Se - ñor. . . .*  
 . . . Bless - ed be the Sav - ior, the one who comes in your name.



*Ho - san - na en el cie - lo. San - to\_e-res, oh Dios.*  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. You are ho - ly, God.

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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 – Here Is Bread (ELW #483)

1 Here is bread, here is wine,  
Christ is with us, he is with us.  
Break the bread, taste the wine,  
Christ is with us here.

#### *Refrain*

In this bread there is healing,  
in this cup is life forever.  
In this moment, by the Spirit,  
Christ is with us here.

2 Here is grace, here is peace,  
Christ is with us, he is with us.  
Know his grace, find his peace,  
feast on Jesus here. *Refrain*

3 Here we are, joined in one,  
Christ is with us, he is with us.  
We'll proclaim till he comes  
Jesus crucified. *Refrain*

Text and music: Graham Kendrick.

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## ✠ BLESSING

P God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✠ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

C Amen.

## ✠ PRAISE TO YOU, O GOD OF MERCY (ELW #208)

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Praise to you, O God of mercy:<br>thanks be to you forever!<br>Raising high the weak and lowly:<br>thanks be to you forever!            | <i>Bridge</i><br>Strong is your faithfulness,<br>strong is your love,<br>rememb'ring your covenant of life<br>with us.                                      |
| 2 | From of old you loved and sought us:<br>thanks be to you forever!<br>Truth and justice you have taught us:<br>thanks be to you forever! | 3 Praise to you, O God of mercy:<br>thanks be to you forever!<br>Raising high the weak and lowly:<br>thanks be to you forever!<br>Thanks be to you forever! |

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## ✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ✠ SENDING HYMN – Let Streams of Living Justice (ELW #710)

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Let streams of living justice<br>flow down upon the earth;<br>give freedom's light to captives,<br>let all the poor have worth.<br>The hungry's hands are pleading,<br>the workers claim their rights,<br>the mourners long for laughter,<br>the blinded seek for sight.<br>Make liberty a beacon,<br>strike down the iron pow'r;<br>abolish ancient vengeance:<br>proclaim your people's hour. | 2 | For healing of the nations,<br>For peace that will not end,<br>for love that makes us lovers,<br>God grant us grace to mend.<br>Weave our varied gifts together;<br>knit our lives as they are spun;<br>on your loom of time enroll us<br>till our thread of life is run.<br>O great weaver of our fabric,<br>bind church and world in one;<br>dye our texture with your radiance,<br>light our colors with your sun. |
|---|---|---|---|

3 Your city's built to music;  
we are the stones you seek;  
your harmony is language;  
we are the words you speak.  
Our faith we find in service,  
our hope in others' dreams,

our love in hand of neighbor;  
our homeland brightly gleams.  
Inscribe our hearts with justice;  
your way—the path untried;  
your truth—the heart of stranger;  
your life—the Crucified.

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## ✠DISMISSAL

P Go with Christ into a weary world.  
Share the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## ✠SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister:

The Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal

Music Director:

John Zacharias

Altar:

Renee Swanjord

Assisting Minister:

Renee Swanjord

Lay Reader:

Mel Hammer

Usher:

Julie Schmidt

Videographer:

Steve Curry

Sunday School

Katie Valencia

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