

You are welcome here!

We are disciples of Jesus, growing in Faith, Hope, and Love

Address

4729 S. Carrier Parkway Grand Prairie, TX 75052

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Phone 977-647-5683

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Website

www.OurRedeemerGP.org

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Facebook

www.facebook.com/ NucRedeemerl utheranGP

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Worship Times

Sunday 10:15 am Wednesday 7:00 pm

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Pastor

Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal



August 20, 2023 12th Sunday After Pentecost

Gathering

▼ INTRODUCTION

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors. Merciful God,
- C we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Righteous God,
- C we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

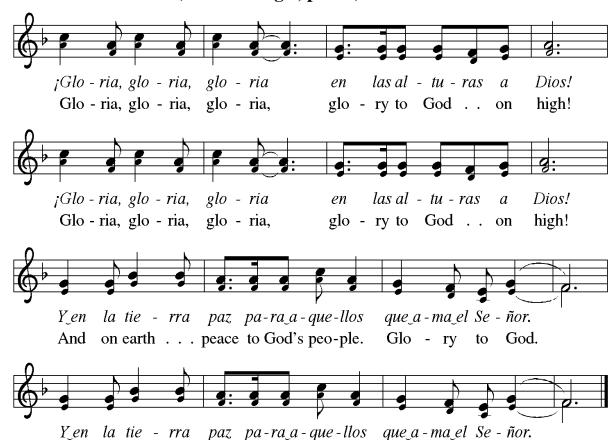
- P God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of 中 Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.

▼ GATHERING HYMN – All Are Welcome (ELW #641) vs. 1-3

GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

♥ GLORY TO GOD- (ELW setting 7, p. 176)



*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A Let us pray. God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Glo - ry

to

And on earth . . peace to God's peo-ple.

C Amen.

Word

¥ FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—

⁷These I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer;

their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

⁸Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

- L The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

▼ RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 67

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

²Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

³Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

⁶The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.

⁷May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

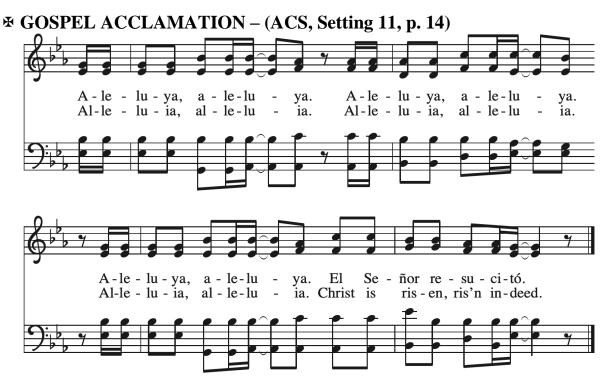
▼ SECOND LESSON – Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

- L The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.



▼ GOSPEL – Matthew 15:21-28

- P The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.
 - ²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.
- P The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

★ SERMON

★ HYMN OF THE DAY Oh, Praise the Gracious Power (ELW #651)

vs. 1 - 5

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★ 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 Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A O God, your Spirit gathers the church. Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You created the earth and all its inhabitants and declared it good. Clean polluted skies, seas, and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals, and make us aware of our impact on the environment. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You call leaders to bridge differences and practice generosity. Inspire all in authority to protect people in harm's way, deliver those in bondage, support fair elections, provide care for military personnel and veterans, and show mercy to those for whom they have responsibility. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You provide for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal the sick. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A O God, you journey with us in all of life's transitions. Guide those preparing for baptism, marriage, and retirement. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry. Safeguard those who travel. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We give you thanks for those who now rest from their labors. Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel, until that day when we join with them in our eternal home. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

*** PEACE**

- P The peace of the Lord be with you all.
- C And also with you.

*** OFFERING**

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, here and around the world. After the offering is gathered, the gifts are brought forward to the altar.

As this happens, please stand as you are able for the offering prayer and meal.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

- A God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.

Meal

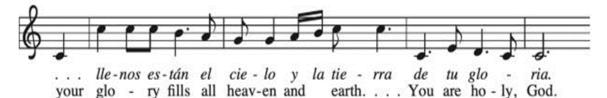
★ GREAT THANKSGIVING

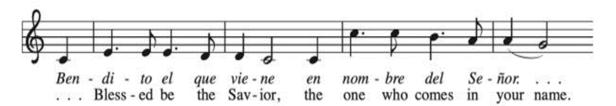
- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and 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:

¥ Santo, Santo, Santo (ACS # 1089)

Holy, Holy, Holy Santo, santo, santo









Text: Traditional; English text, hymnal version Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C Amen.

▼ 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.

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

*** DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

▼ COMMUNION HYMN – My Faith Looks Up to Thee (ELW #759)

▼ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

₩ BLESSING

- P The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed \pm bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.
- C Amen.

*** ANNOUNCEMENTS**

★ SENDING HYMN – All Are Welcome (ELW #641) vs. 4, 5

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▼ DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. Share the harvest.
- C Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL CELEBRATION next SUNDAY, August 27th

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Grand Prairie will be holding a reception for our Pastor, the Reverend Julio Cruz-Natal, recognizing twenty-five years of ordained ministry. We will be celebrating in the fellowship hall after the Sunday service. Refreshments will be served, and the life's work of our minister will be honored. We hope everybody can make it to our gathering.

★ SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal

Music Director: John Zacharias Renee Swanjord Altar: Renee Swanjord **Assisting Minister:** Lay Reader: Mel Hammer Cindy Dolezal Usher: Videographer: Steve Curry Communion Cup Holder: Kyle Bennett

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