



And He was preaching in their synagogues
throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.

+ *Mark 1:39 (NKJV)*

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 7, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Our readings from Holy Scripture today are a gracious reminder to us that, in His love for His people, God is willing to rescue and protect us; and as the almighty Lord, He certainly is able!

The people in Isaiah's day were wondering about God's protection as they feared neighboring nations, but the prophet reminds them that God is in control of all things, ready and able to help them.

When Jesus healed Saint Peter's mother-in-law and many others who were suffering from sickness or demons, He demonstrated His power to save from opponents on every level.

Saint Paul became "all things to all people" that he might bring the Gospel—God's fullest and ultimate rescue from sin, death, and the devil.

And now, the blessings of the Gospel come to us today through Word and Sacrament from our strong and loving God.

With the Psalmist then we shout with joy:

"I will sing to the LORD,
because He has dealt bountifully with me."

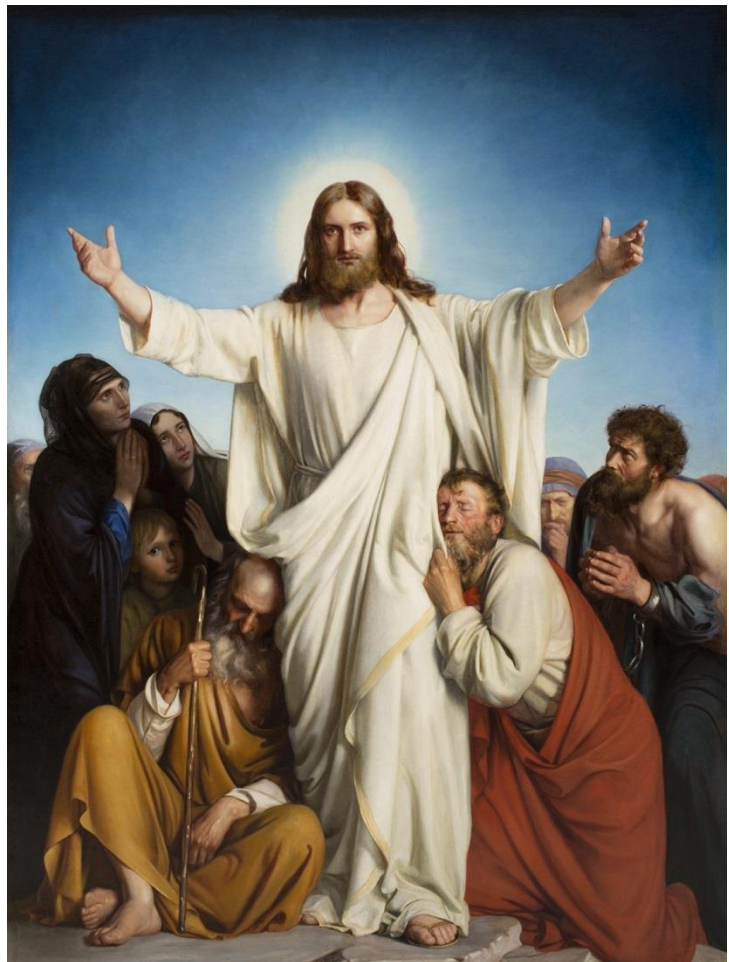
+ Psalm 13:6

Yours in Christ Jesus,

+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor's phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor's email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org



Christus Consolator by Carl Heinrich Bloch (1834-1890), Public Domain

✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION: Praise the Almighty

LSB 797



1 Praise the Al - might - y, my soul, a - dore Him!
 2 Trust not in rul - ers; they are but mor - tal;
 3 Bless - ed, oh, bless - ed are they for - ev - er
 4 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,
 Δ 5 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Yes, I will laud Him un - til death; With songs and
 Earth - born they are and soon de - cay. Vain are their
 Whose help is from the Lord Most High, Whom from sal -
 Par - don and peace from Him ob - tain; Ev - er the
 Of Him who does such won - drous things! All that has



an - thems I come be - fore Him As long as
 coun - sels at life's last por - tal, When the dark
 va - tion can noth - ing sev - er, And who in
 wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, Their faith - ful
 be - ing, to praise Him sole - ly, With hap - py



He al - lows me breath. From Him my life and
 grave en - gulfed its prey. Since mor - tals can no
 hope to Christ draw nigh. To all who trust in
 God He will re - main. He helps His chil - dren
 heart its a - men sings. Chil - dren of God, with



all things came; Bless, O my soul, His ho - ly name.
 help af - ford, Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
 Him, our Lord Will aid and coun - sel now af - ford.
 in dis - tress, The wid - ows and the fa - ther - less.
 an - gel host Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Public Domain

Stand – The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[Hebrews 10:22]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

Psalm 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Psalm 32:5

Kneel (or remain standing) — Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

C **Amen.**

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 13:3–5; antiphon: v. 6

The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.



(Antiphon) I will sing | to the LORD,*
because He has dealt bountifully | with me.

³ Consider and answer me, O | LORD my God;*
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the | sleep of death,

⁴ lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed | over him,”*
lest my foes rejoice because I am | shaken.

⁵ But I have trusted in Your | steadfast love;*
my heart shall rejoice in Your sal- | vation.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

The antiphon is repeated.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

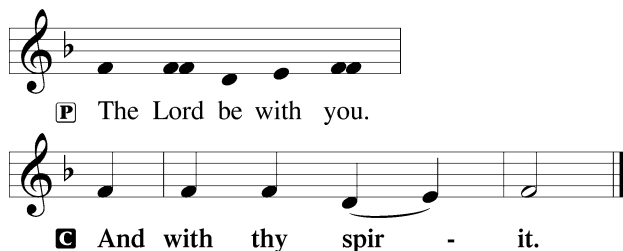
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 40:21-31

P The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 40.

- 21 Do you not know? Do you not hear?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- 22 It is He who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;
- 23 who brings princes to nothing,
and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.
- 24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when He blows on them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- 25 To whom then will you compare Me,
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.
- 26 Lift up your eyes on high and see:
who created these?
He who brings out their host by number,
calling them all by name,
by the greatness of His might,
and because He is strong in power
not one is missing.
- 27 Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
- 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
His understanding is unsearchable.
- 29 He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might He increases strength.
- 30 Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
- 31 but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8

The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.



Praise the LORD, all | nations!*

Extol Him, all | peoples!

For great is His steadfast | love toward us,*

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due His name;*

bring an offering, and come in- | to His courts!

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 9:16-27

P The Epistle is from First Corinthians, chapter nine.

¹⁶If I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Alleluia. And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee,
and casting out demons. Alleluia.

Mark 1:39 (NKJV)



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁹Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰But Simon’s wife’s mother lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once. ³¹So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them. ³²At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. ³³And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

³⁵Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. ³⁶And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him. ³⁷When they found Him, they said to Him, “Everyone is looking for You.” ³⁸But He said to them, “Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.” ³⁹And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth
 and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life **✝** of the world to come. Amen.



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, Great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 He shall come down like show - ers Up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore Him And gold and in - cense bring;
 5 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, He on His throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!
 To help the poor and need - y And bid the weak be strong;
 Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, Spring in His path to birth.
 All na - tions shall a - dore Him, His praise all peo - ple sing.
 From age to age more glo - rious, All bless - ing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free,
 To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,
 Be - fore Him on the moun - tains Shall peace, the her - ald, go;
 To Him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And dai - ly vows as - cend;
 The tide of time shall nev - er His cov - e - nant re - move;



To take a - way trans - gres - sion And rule in eq - ui - ty.
 Whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, Were pre - cious in His sight.
 And righ - teous - ness in foun - tains From hill to val - ley flow.
 His king - dom still in - creas - ing, A king - dom with - out end.
 His name shall stand for - ev - er— That name to us is Love.

Text and tune: Public Domain

SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

After the sermon, the pastor may say:

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
 keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

C Amen.

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10-12



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Kneel (or remain standing)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P In thanksgiving for sending Christ Jesus into our flesh; for His preaching of the Gospel and His casting out of the corrupting works of sin and Satan, which we could not overcome; and that, by His Word, He would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the Holy Church, that God would give joy to His servants on whom He has laid the necessity to preach the Gospel, that many would be saved in every nation, and that together we may share in the blessings of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all Christian homes, and for the endurance that comes from Your Holy Spirit; for husbands and wives, parents and children, that they may be disciplined and self-controlled in their duties, run their course in this life, and continue to the end in the holy Christian faith, ready to receive the imperishable wreath of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our land, that the Lord who created this world's foundations and holds might over the powers of nature and the rulers of the earth would graciously preserve it with its produce and industry; and for our leaders and our people, that God would not disregard us for our sins, but renew us, that our lives may be peaceful and our country governed according to His will, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those in any need, that in our prayers they would be brought to the Great Physician of body and soul whose hand turns away demon, disease, and every ill effect of sin, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who receive the Sacrament this day, that we would come to Christ's Supper believing that where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation; and that the blood of Christ, which atoned for our sins, would make us whole, strengthen us against every spiritual attack of the devil, turn us in love toward our neighbor, and preserve us in body and soul to life everlasting, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C **Amen.**

The live-stream service concludes with the following:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

P Let us pray.

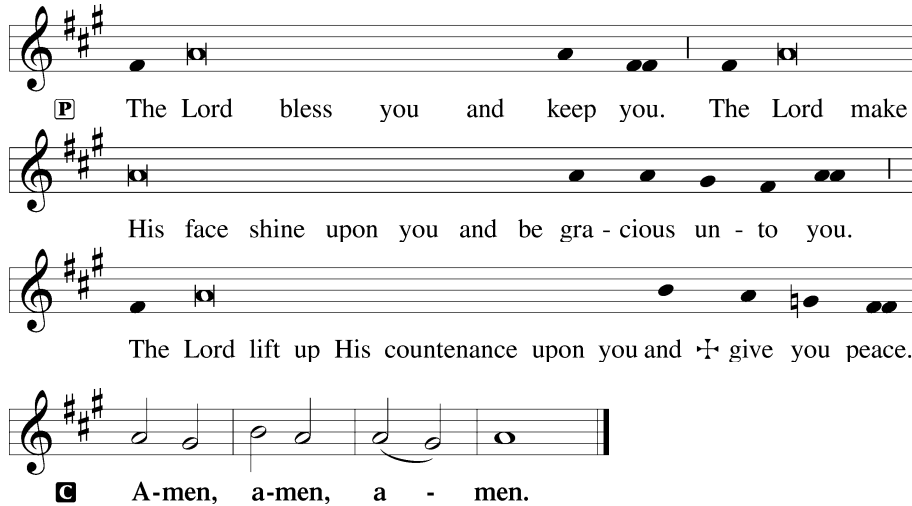
O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Stand

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.

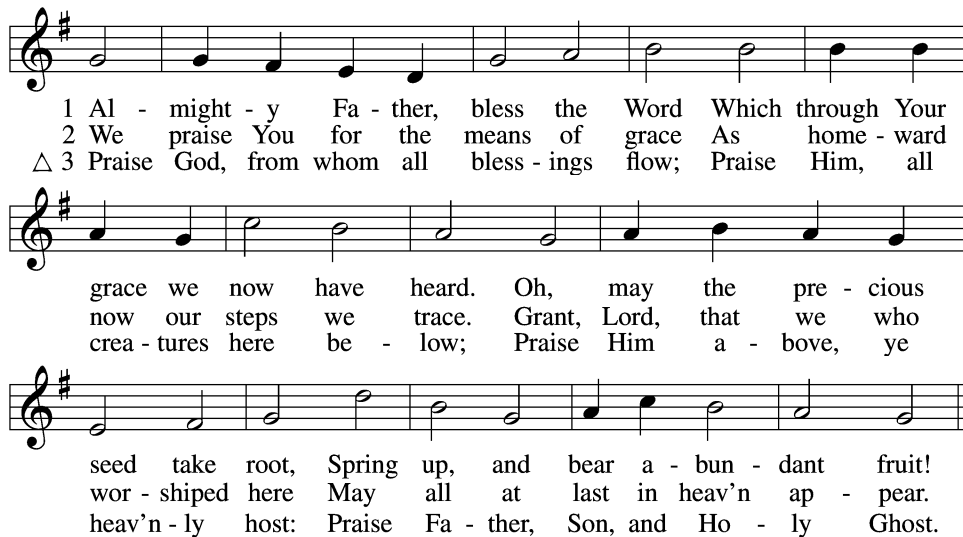
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C A-men, a-men, a - men.

The Divine Service continues with the Lord's Supper for those at the church. Please sing/read aloud the closing hymn and come by later for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.

CLOSING HYMN: Almighty Father, Bless the Word

LSB 923



1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your
2 We praise You for the means of grace As home - ward
△ 3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious
now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye
seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit!
wor - shiped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.
heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text and tune: Public Domain

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

So churches in California are now able to resume indoor services! I got the news alert on my phone late on Friday that the United States Supreme Court ruled against California's statewide ban on indoor worship services. That being said, the ruling leaves in effect the limitations on chanting and singing.

This got me thinking about the services we have been holding on our church patio. I've actually grown a bit fond of our little gatherings out there. It certainly helps that winter in El Centro is the ideal weather! And our patio is a nice location: we have a bit of a windbreak and the building blocks most of the traffic noise; the morning sunlight has a nice golden hue and warms us up just enough to be pretty comfy. All in all, it's a nice little setup we have out there.

To be certain, our church sanctuary is beautiful (I daresay the prettiest in the whole Imperial Valley) but our little patio "sanctuary" is feeling pretty "churchy" nowadays. You know, the more that you do sacred activities in a profane place (simply meaning a location not devoted specifically to sacred purposes), the more sacred the place begins to feel. Of course, the opposite is also true: the more you do profane activities in a sacred space, the more profane that space begins to feel.

That being said, I thought I'd solicit a little feedback from all of you and do an informal survey: Would you be more or less likely to attend in-person services if we resumed them inside the church sanctuary? Would you be more or less likely to attend in-person services if it meant we wouldn't be allowed to sing hymns (as would be the case if we moved services back inside)? Or perhaps you simply are not ready to come back to in-person services no matter where they are held (and that is okay, too)—just let me know.



So send me your feedback—write a comment on the Facebook posting or shoot me an email (pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org).

And don't worry, no matter where we are holding services, we'll continue to do a live-stream on Facebook (though I would love to keep our "up-close" feel for the online service if we move inside—if you have any ideas about how to get that done, let me know!).

Also, I hope that you'll join me for our study of the Psalms, meeting on "Zoom" every Tuesday at Noon. This week we study Psalm 36. Then tune-in on Wednesday at 7:00pm on Facebook for our Midweek Prayer Service.

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715>
- To join by phone, call either "669-900-9128" or "346-248-7799" and enter 7603525715#
- The password for both (computer or telephone) is "12345"

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church's post office box: Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

P.S. Holly created a beautiful memorial pamphlet for Joan Tyler's funeral and I was remiss in uploading a digital copy for everyone to see yesterday. I do want to share it with you so I added a link to the file on the "Service Folder" page of our website (at the very bottom in the "Past Services" section). You can also see the file with this (rather long and ungainly) link—https://704fe381-0cf2-410d-997c-d0343a4b86a3.usrfiles.com/ugd/704fe3_19ae3acaf7bc4c7eafc6df06b6837ed3.pdf