



Man ate of the bread of the angels; He sent them food in abundance. + Psalm 78:25

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 2, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Happiness and contentment are elusive, especially in times of strife and affliction. No matter how many “things” we gather or how much wealth we accumulate, our hearts remain restless for things new and different, for the promise of something better.

Saint Paul reminds us that contentment does not come from having everything our hearts desire; rather, it comes with faith in the Lord, who is gracious and merciful and supplies all our needs.

Today, we hear the terrible news of John the Baptist’s martyrdom and of a crowd restless with hunger. In the midst of it all, Jesus shows forth grace to rest our fears and satisfy us with all we need. God grants us faith that we may learn to trust in Him and to find contentment and peace in His grace, which is sufficient for all things.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s phone: (760) 679-3699

Pastor’s email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✠ MATINS ✠

OPENING HYMN: Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee

LSB 573

1 Lord, 'tis not that I did choose Thee; That, I know, could
 2 It was grace in Christ that called me, Taught my dark - ened
 3 Praise the God of all cre - a - tion; Praise the Fa - ther's
 nev - er be; For this heart would still re - fuse Thee Had Thy
 heart and mind; Else the world had yet en - thralled me, To Thy
 bound - less love. Praise the Lamb, our ex - pi - a - tion, Priest and
 grace not cho - sen me. Thou hast from the sin that stained me
 heav'n - ly glo - ries blind. Now I wor - ship none a - bove Thee;
 King en - throned a - bove. Praise the Spir - it of sal - va - tion,
 Washed and cleansed and set me free And un - to this
 For Thy grace a - lone I thirst, Know - ing well that,
 Him by whom our spir - its live. Un - di - vid - ed
 end or - dained me, That I ev - er live to Thee.
 if I love Thee, Thou, O Lord, didst love me first.
 ad - o - ra - tion To the great Je - ho - vah give.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

OPENING VERSICLES

Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1

L O Lord, o - pen my lips,
C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.

C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.
 Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

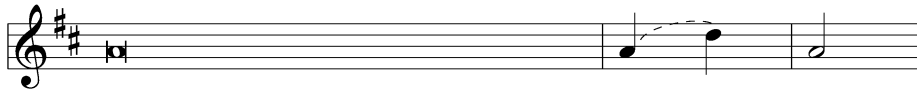
PSALMODY

L The Lord has en-light-ened us in the true faith.
C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

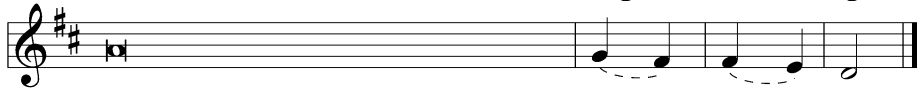
Venite

Psalm 95: 1-7

C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
 2 For the Lord is a great God
 3 The sea is His, for He made it,
 5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son
 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
 3 and His hand formed the dry land.
 5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
 3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
 4 For He is our God,
 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
 2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
 3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
 5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



L The Lord has en-light-ened us in the true faith.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Sit

OFFICE HYMN: By Grace I'm Saved

LSB 566, sts. 1-3



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
 2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
 3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
 have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
 bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it



Has Scrip-ture ev - er false-hood taught? No! Then this word must
 Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
 That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
 sins a - lone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
 grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.

Text and tune: Public domain

READINGS

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1–5

P The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 55.

- ¹ “Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to Me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
³ Incline your ear, and come to Me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
My steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴ Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵ Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,
for He has glorified you.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 9:1–13

P The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 9.

¹I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—
²that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.
⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

⁶But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ⁸This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. ⁹For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁰And not only so, but also when Rebecca had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of His call— ¹²she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” ¹³As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE



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

Psalm 78:25

Alleluia. Man ate of the bread of the angels; He sent them food in abundance. Alleluia.



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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 14:13-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus heard [about the death of John], He withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by Himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed Him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When He went ashore He saw a great crowd, and He had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵Now when it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

¹⁶But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."

¹⁷They said to Him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish."

¹⁸And He said, "Bring them here to Me." ¹⁹Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

RESPONSORY

Psalm 119:89; 26:8; Luke 11:28



1 Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
2 Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
3 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.



Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glo-ry dwells.

Sit

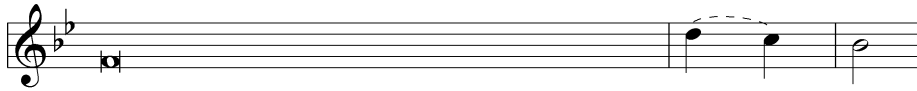
SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

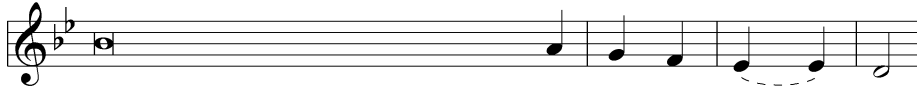
CANTICLE

Stand

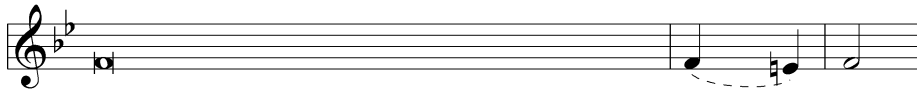
TE DEUM: We Praise You, O God



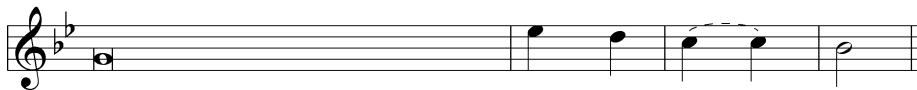
- 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs praise — You.



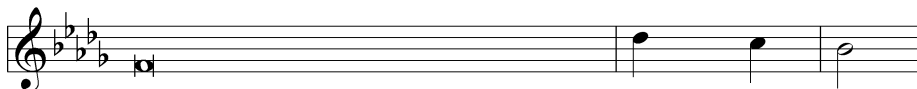
- 1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



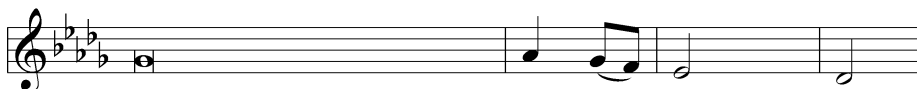
- 1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
2 The glorious company of the apostles praise — You.
3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
4 You are the king of glory, O — Christ;



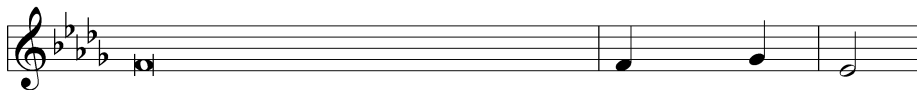
- 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise — You.
3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



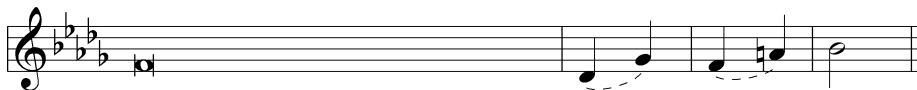
- 5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



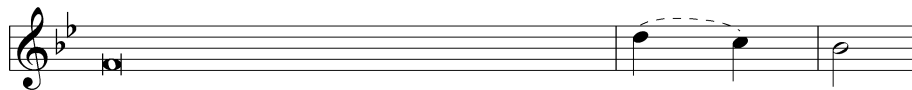
- 5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



- 5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
6 We believe that You will come



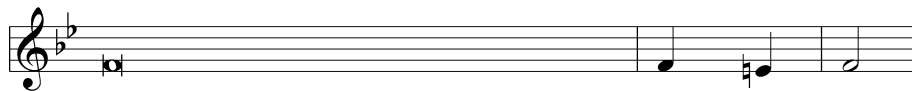
- 5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be — our — judge.



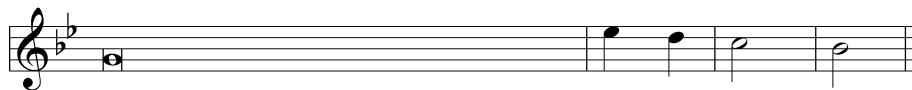
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,
 8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
 9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out _____ sin.



7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.
 8 Govern them and lift them up for - ev - er.
 9 O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy up - on _____ us.



7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints
 8 Day by day we magni - fy You.
 9 O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.



7 in glory ev - er - last - ing.
 8 And we worship Your name for - ever and ev - er.
 9 O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be con - found - ed.

PRAYER

Kneel (or remain standing)

KYRIE

Mark 10:47



☐ Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13



Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal-low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as



it is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly



bread; and for-give us our tres-pass - es as we for-give



those who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in -



to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.

For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo -
ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

COLLECTS

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spir - it.

Collect of the Day

P Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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.

Collect for Times of Affliction

P Lord God, we humbly confess to You that we deserve Your fatherly chastisement for our sins; yet we earnestly implore You, for Your name's sake, to spare us in this time of disaster. Restrain all harmful powers and help Your suffering people that Your Word may be declared faithfully and without hindrance and that we, amending our sinful lives, may walk in safety and peace according to Your holy commandments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C A - men.

Additional collects may be prayed following the same form and response. The prayers conclude with the Collect for Grace.

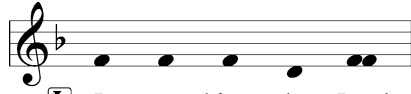
Collect for Grace

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; 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.

BENEDICAMUS

Psalm 103:1



L Let us bless the Lord.



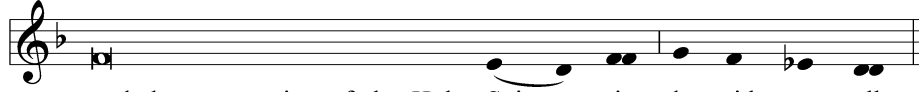
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14



P The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



G A - men.

CLOSING HYMN: By Grace I'm Saved

LSB 566, sts. 4-6



4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is
5 By grace to tim - id hearts that trem - ble, In trib - u - la - tion's
6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy - ing; In Je - sus' prom - ise



true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,
fur - nace tried, By grace, in spite of fear and trou - ble,
I re - joice; For though I know my heart's con - di - tion,



What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our
The Fa - ther's heart is o - pen wide. Where could I help and
I al - so know my Sav - ior's voice. My heart is glad, all



God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.
strength se - cure If grace were not my an - chor sure?
grief has flown Since I am saved by grace a - lone.

Text and tune: Public domain

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

So we bought a Facebook Portal TV for my parents and got one for ourselves. I had toyed with the idea for several months, usually deciding that it was an extravagance because we are able to do Facetime on our Apple iPads. But the thought kept nagging at me.

What finally won me over was the thought that the image of my parents on our television would be much larger—almost life-size—and little Sam might recognize Grandma and Grandpa as people and not just moving shapes and colors on a small screen. And it seemed to work! Sam giggled and stared at Grandma and Grandpa (he really cranked-up the cute factor!) and interacted with them somewhat.

We had a good, long visit. It felt like we were hanging out together in one big virtual living room. Without having to hold onto something in my hands but just sitting back, drinking coffee or chasing after Leo, and talking was liberating. It felt more “normal” to be hands-free. And having the chance to be a family with my parents made me realize that this purchase was a good one—a necessary one.

As we turn the calendar page to the eighth month of this year (and the twentieth week of isolation), I confess that I am lonely. Holly has said the same. And, though he doesn’t seem to have the words to express it, I think Leo is feeling it, and Sam, also. I would bet you’re feeling it, too.

It’s okay to feel lonely and it’s okay to say it isn’t good! Humanity was made for relationships: in relationship with God but also, *and almost just as important*, in relationship with each other. We are supposed to be interacting with others, be that work or school or church or a club or the grocery store.

We are supposed to be present—physically and spiritually—with others who bear the image and likeness of God. “It is not good that man should be alone,” said God (Gen. 2:18). And if God says it isn’t good . . . well, that’s pretty bad! *But for now*, we endure this separation and work around it.

And one way that we can feel less alone is being able to see other people and talk with them—no masks, just faces. And that’s exactly what we do with our **Study of the Psalms** on “Zoom” **every Tuesday at Noon (ending by 1:00pm)**. We socialize for the first 15 minutes and work through the psalm from 12:15pm to 12:45pm, concluding by 1:00pm. This week we study Psalm 15. **Please do join me.**

- 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#

And tune-in to Facebook **each Wednesday night at 7:00pm** for a short (30 minute) **service of prayer and meditation** on the psalm. The service folder will be on our website (www.GraceLutheranElCentro.org) and the live-stream will be on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranElCentro).

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