



“Everyone who acknowledges Me before men,
I also will acknowledge before My Father
who is in heaven.”

+ *Matthew 10:32*

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 21, 2020



Pashur Smiting Jeremiah in the Temple, circa 1648, by Leonaert Bramer (1596-1674), Public Domain

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It should be no surprise, for the Lord warned them from the beginning: to follow Christ, to live our Baptism, to be a Christian will not be a life of ease, peace, and abundance, but rather one of trouble and contradiction.

All the apostles and prophets found this to be true, coming even from those who claim (falsely) to have fellowship among the saints, as Jeremiah discovered. Having been beaten by Pashur the Temple priest for delivering God’s prophetic Word to Israel, Jeremiah is in genuine anger and despair, lamenting that all he is given to say is “violence and destruction” (Jer 20:8). Having voiced his complaint, Jeremiah returns with a clear head to confess the wonderful truth that God is with him always, to strengthen and uphold him, for when we are at our weakest God’s strength is most active (a most difficult truth to accept and to trust, especially during trials).

Jeremiah’s complaint is echoed by all the faithful who have discovered the Christian life is nothing short of warfare between life and death. Because Jesus gave Himself to the defeat of the devil and our spiritual slavery by letting it all have its way with Him to the cross, all who believe are freed and made participants in newness of life by simple faith in this grace and mercy of God for us.

Jesus says three times today, “Do not be afraid.” Though we may often repeat the prophet’s complain, we also rejoice with him and with all the saints of heaven: “Sing to the Lord! Give praise to the Lord!”

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

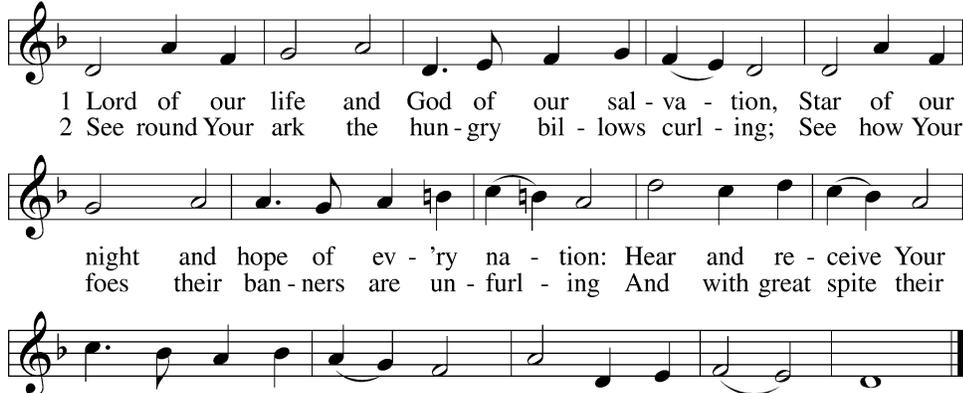
Pastor’s phone: (760) 679-3699

Pastor’s email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✠ MATINS ✠

OPENING HYMN: Lord of Our Life

LSB 659, sts. 1-2



1 Lord of our life and God of our sal - va - tion, Star of our
2 See round Your ark the hun - gry bil - lows curl - ing; See how Your
night and hope of ev - 'ry na - tion: Hear and re - ceive Your
foes their ban - ners are un - furl - ing And with great spite their
Church's sup - pli - ca - tion, Lord God Al - might - y.
fi - ery darts are hurl - ing, O Lord, pre - serve us.

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



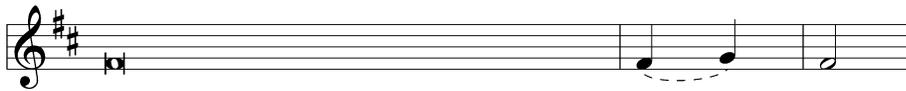
L The Spirit of the Lord fills the world. Al - le - lu - ia.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

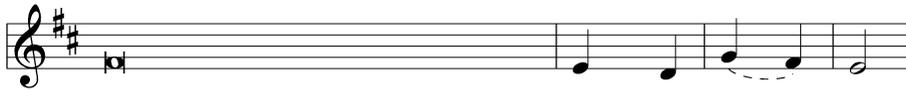
Venite

Psalm 95: 1-7



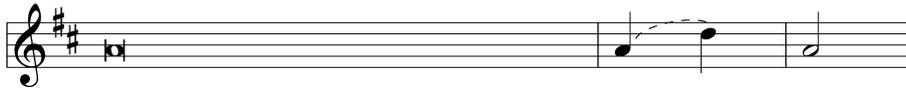
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
 2 For the Lord is a great God
 3 The sea is His, for He made it,

 5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

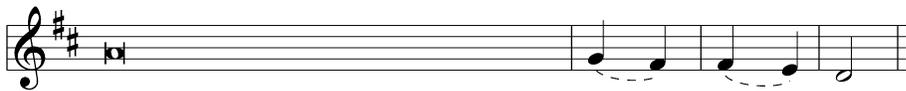


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
 3 and His hand formed the dry land.

 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 Spirit of the Lord fills the world. Al - le - lu - ia.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Sit

OFFICE HYMN: Children of the Heavenly Father

LSB 725



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
 2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
 4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
 ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
 Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
 chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
 show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
 sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

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READINGS

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 20:7–13

- ⁷ O LORD, You have deceived me, and I was deceived;
 You are stronger than I, and You have prevailed.
 I have become a laughingstock all the day;
 everyone mocks me.
- ⁸ For whenever I speak, I cry out,
 I shout, "Violence and destruction!"
 For the word of the LORD has become for me
 a reproach and derision all day long.
- ⁹ If I say, "I will not mention Him, or speak any more in His name,"
 there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones,
 and I am weary with holding it in,
 and I cannot.
- ¹⁰ For I hear many whispering.
 Terror is on every side!
 "Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
 say all my close friends, watching for my fall.
 "Perhaps he will be deceived;
 then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him."
- ¹¹ But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior;
 therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me.
 They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed.
 Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.
- ¹² O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous,
 who sees the heart and the mind,
 let me see Your vengeance upon them,
 for to You have I committed my cause.
- ¹³ Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD!
 For He has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 6:12–23

¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE



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

Matthew 10:32

Alleluia. Everyone who acknowledges Me before men,
I also will acknowledge before My Father who is in heaven. Alleluia.



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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 10:5a, 21–33

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the tenth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, . . .

²¹“Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²²and you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. ²⁶“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.

²⁷“What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³²“So everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before My Father who is in heaven, ³³but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father who is in heaven.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

RESPONSORY

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



- L** 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.



- G** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Sit

SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

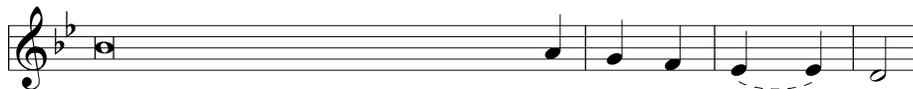
CANTICLE

Stand

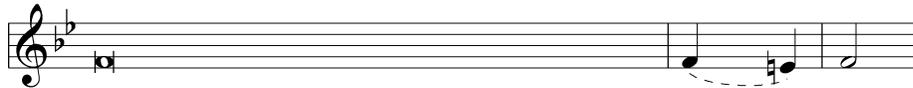
TE DEUM: We Praise You, O God



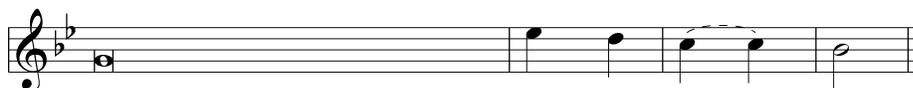
- G** 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs praise You.



- 1 All the earth now worships You, the Father 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;



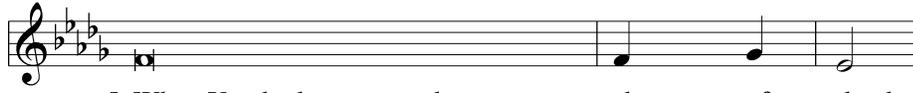
- 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The goodly fellowship of the proph - ets praise You.
3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com - fort - er.
4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



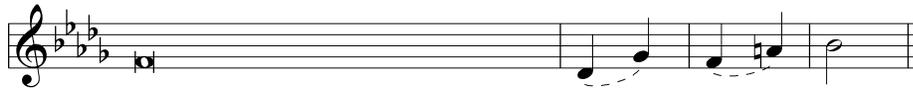
5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



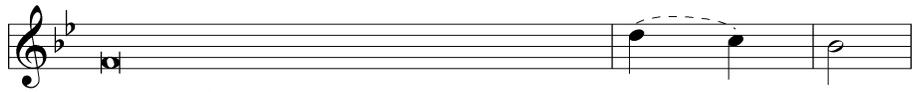
5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



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.



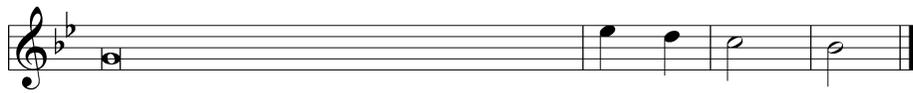
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,
8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out sin.



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.

G And with your spir - it.

Collect of the Day

P O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G A - men.

Collect During an Epidemic

P Almighty God, heavenly Father, give us grace to trust You during this time of illness and distress. In mercy put an end to the epidemic that afflicts us. Grant relief to those who suffer, and comfort all that mourn. Sustain all medical personnel in their labors, and cause Your people ever to serve You in righteousness and holiness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G 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.

Stand

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.



C A - men.

CLOSING HYMN: Lord of Our Life

LSB 659, sts. 3-4



3 Lord, be our light when world-ly dark - ness veils us; Lord, be our
4 Peace in our hearts, where sin - ful thoughts are rag - ing, Peace in Your



shield when earth - ly ar - mor fails us; And in the day when
Church, our trou - bled souls as - suag - ing, Peace when the world its



hell it - self as - sails us, Grant us Your peace, Lord:
end - less war is wag - ing, Peace in Your heav - en.

Text and tune: Public domain

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

Happy Father's Day to our heavenly Father – Happy Father's Day, Abba!

And happy Father's Day to all the kinds of fathers we have this side of glory – to our dads, to those noble men who are father-figures to us, and to our “fathers” in government (right now they are all having a tough go of it—may God grant them the courage and wisdom to exercise the office aright).

I forget what we normally do after service for this day but I think it involved ice cream! Yummy! I might need to sneak out of quarantine and pick up something (I *love* cookie-dough ice cream). ☺

Back when I was the Director of Donor Marketing for Catholic Charities of Denver, I always put an advertisement in the *Denver Catholic Register* (the diocesan newspaper, akin to a local *LCMS Reporter*) wishing all of the Fathers (priests) a happy Father's Day. Obviously (knowing my rather dry sense of humor) I always got a little chuckle from the play on words . . . but there is a certain truth to it also.

Now, hold off on grabbing the pitchforks and storming the castle because I sound like a Romanist (I say mostly in jest ☺). While the vast majority of congregations in our Synod refer to their pastor as, well, “Pastor,” there *are* congregations that refer to their pastor as “Father.” . . . and either one is okay. Actually, there is a whole host of names one can use with ordained clergymen: Pastor, Reverend, Preacher, Father . . . Hey You (okay, the last one is just a joke but it still works in a pinch.)

As I said, there is a certain truth to calling your pastor Father for he is the one to whom God has entrusted the care of your soul (much as our heavenly Father has entrusted the care of children, body and soul, to his or her earthly fathers). Saint Paul often uses the example of fatherhood in relation to the Divine Office (cf Philemon 1:10; Philippians 2:22; 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12; 1 Timothy 5:1-2), even going so far as to say that he is a “father in Christ” to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 4:15). You could also check out the Large Catechism in its treatment of the Fourth Commandment. ☺

And on Father's Day, especially taking place on a Sunday, I chuckle thinking about being a father in two ways—as a pastor and as Dad to Leo and Sam (and Mr. Chan, if we count kitty-cats as family). Remember how Holly went into labor with Leo during the Call Service at Seminary, how I jetted out of the service dressed in my clerical collar? Well, when I went to pick up the car from the valet the next morning, the attendant addressed me as Father, to which I said, “In spirit *and* in truth!” Sadly, I don't think that poor fellow understood the humor of my response . . . but I laughed enough for both of us. ☺

So, as a kind of Father in Christ to all of you, please receive this fatherly encouragement to join me for our **Study of the Psalms** on “Zoom” **every Tuesday at Noon (ending by 1:00pm)**. We socialize for the first 15 minutes and then start the study at 12:15pm, wrapping up by 12:45pm. We then close with prayer and say goodbye before 1:00pm. This week we study Psalm 9.

- 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