

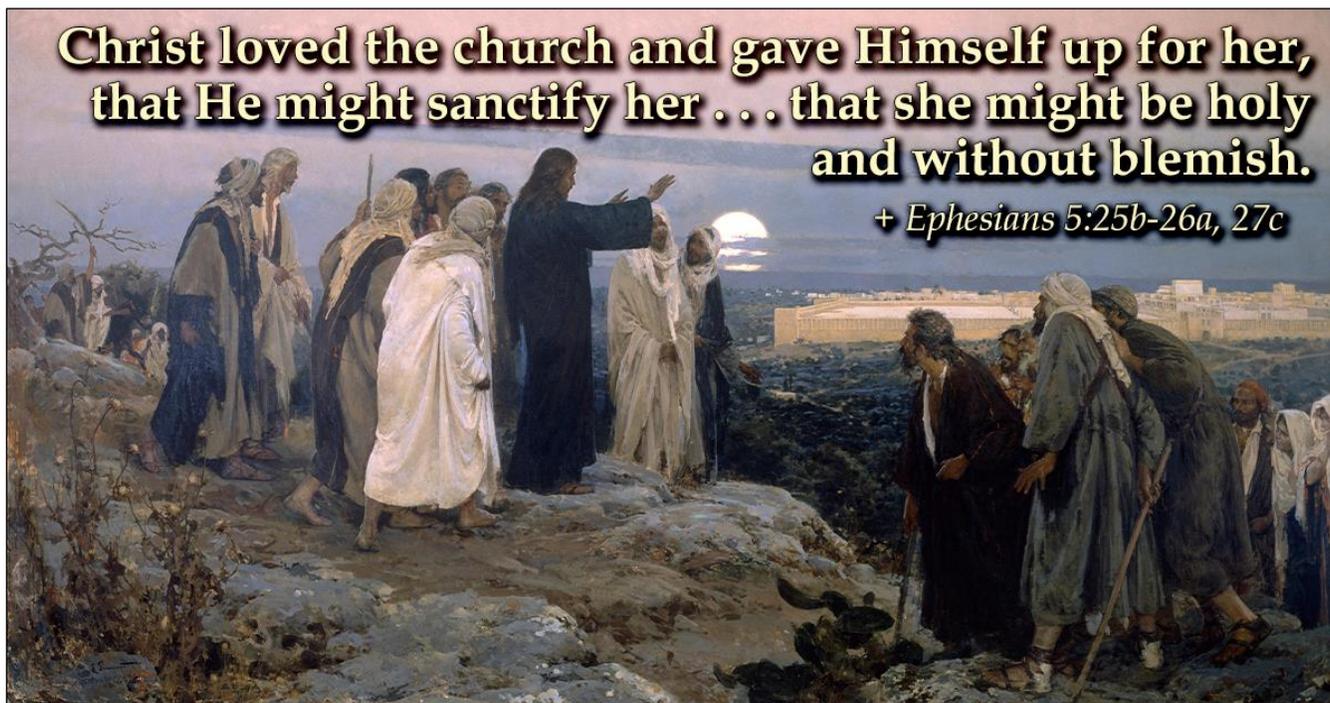


Your words were found, and I ate them,
and Your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart.

+ *Jeremiah 15:16a*

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 22, 2021



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

At first glance, today's Gospel reading seems like an all-out assault on tradition: "You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men" (Mark 7:8). But traditions, in and of themselves, are neither good nor bad; the effect they have is dependent on what we believe and teach about them.

The traditions of the Church are no exception and can be (when used in service of the Gospel) quite helpful. For as much as the public reading of God's Word and receiving the proclamation of that same Word in the Sermon teaches the faith, so also does our practice (the Liturgy or "traditions" of the Church) do the same: they teach the faith! The challenge remains to keep these traditions in the proper place—as servants of the Gospel of Christ or, poetically, ornaments that proclaim His mercy and our salvation.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor's Phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor's Email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION: Only-Begotten, Word of God Eternal

LSB 916



1 On - ly - be - got - ten, Word of God e - ter - nal, Lord of cre -
2 Ho - ly this tem - ple where our Lord is dwell - ing; This is none
3 Hear us, O Fa - ther, as we throng Your tem - ple. By Your past
△ 4 God in three per - sons, Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, Son co - e -



a - tion, mer - ci - ful and might - y: Hear us, Your ser - vants,
oth - er than the gate of heav - en. Ev - er Your chil - dren,
bless - ings, by Your pres - ent boun - ty, Smile on Your chil - dren,
ter - nal, ev - er bless - ed Spir - it: To You be prais - es,



as our tune - ful voic - es Rise in Your pres - ence.
year by year re - joic - ing, Chant in Your tem - ple.
and in grace and mer - cy Hear our pe - ti - tion.
thanks, and ad - o - ra - tion, Glo - ry for - ev - er.

Text and tune: Public Domain

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

CONFESSIO 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.

Psalms 124:8

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

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalms 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 26:1-2, 6-7; antiphon: v. 8

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



(Antiphon) O LORD, I love the habitation | of Your house*
and the place where Your | glory dwells.

¹ Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my in- | tegrity,*
and I have trusted in the LORD without | wavering.

² **Prove me, O LORD, and | try me;***
test my heart | and my mind.

⁶ I wash my hands in innocence and go around Your altar, | O LORD,*
⁷ proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all Your | wondrous deeds.

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



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



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



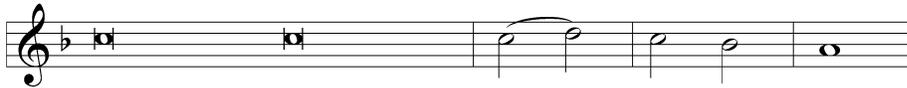
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



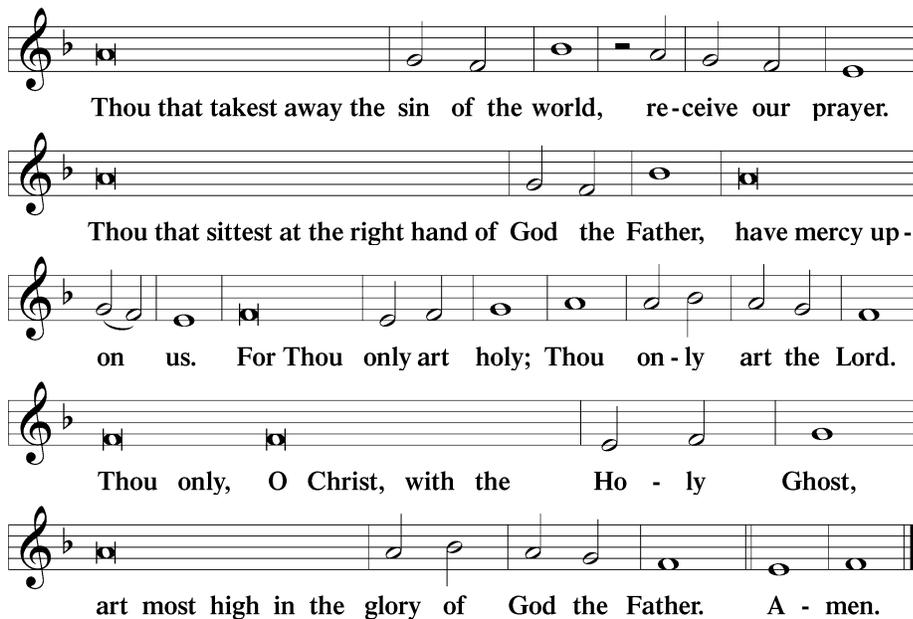
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



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.

Almighty and merciful God, defend Your Church from all false teaching and error that Your faithful people may confess You to be the only true God and rejoice in Your good gifts of life and salvation; 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 29:11-19

P The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 29.

¹¹The vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed." ¹²And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot read."

¹³And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, while their hearts are far from Me, and their fear of Me is a commandment taught by men, ¹⁴therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden."

¹⁵Ah, you who hide deep from the LORD your counsel, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?" ¹⁶You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, "He did not make me"; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

¹⁷Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest? ¹⁸In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. ¹⁹The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.



Fear the LORD, | you His saints,*
for those who fear Him lack | nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous.*
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 5:22–33

P The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter five.

²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. ³¹“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE

Jeremiah 15:16a



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

Alleluia. Your words were found, and I ate them,
and Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart. Alleluia. *The alleluias are repeated.*

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 7:1–13

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹When the Pharisees gathered to Him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, ²they saw that some of His disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³(For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands, holding to the tradition of the elders, ⁴and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.)

⁵And the Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?”

⁶And He said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

“This people honors Me with their lips,
but their heart is far from Me;

⁷ in vain do they worship Me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

⁸You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”

⁹And He said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! ¹⁰For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ ¹¹But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban’ (that is, given to God)— ¹²then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, ¹³thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

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.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain

LSB 865

1 Lord, help us ev - er to re - tain The Cat - e -
 2 Help us Your ho - ly Law to learn, To mourn our
 3 Hear us, dear Fa - ther, when we pray For need - ed
 4 Lord, when we fall or go a - stray, Ab - solve and

chism's — doc - trine plain As Lu - ther taught the
 sin and from it turn In faith to You and
 help from day to day That as Your chil - dren
 lift us up, we pray; And through the Sac - ra -

Word of truth In sim - ple style to ten - der youth.
 to Your Son And Ho - ly Spir - it, Three in One.
 we may live, Whom You bap - tized and so re - ceived.
 ment in - crease Our faith till we de - part in peace.

Text and tune: Public Domain

SERMON

Rev. Doug 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** For a true faith, that we would honor God not just with our lips, but serve Him faithfully with all of our heart, mind and strength, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the baptized children of God, that they may find joy and hope in the waters of Holy Baptism and rejoice in the forgiveness of sins that Christ freely pours out in this saving flood, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all Christians, that we not reject God's commandments for the doctrine of men, but rather keep God's commandments in thought, word, and deed, honoring Him in all that we do, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For husbands and wives, that wives would submit to their husbands and husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For children of all ages, that they not despise or anger their father and mother, but always honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those facing difficult decisions of life and death, that the Lord of life guide them and lead them to make God-pleasing decisions, affirming that life is a precious gift of God, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For our nation and its leaders, for all civil servants, and for all whose work imperils them for the sake of their neighbor, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who suffer any struggle of mind, body, or soul, that God encourage them with His Word and grace, and that He would bless all medical professionals, counselors, and aid workers with the skills necessary to give relief and care where possible, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who partake in the fellowship of this altar and receive Christ's true body and most precious blood, that God would strengthen their faith and sustain them by this Holy Communion until life everlasting, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

The live-stream 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** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- 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 gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

The Divine Service continues with the Lord's Supper for those at the church. Please sing/read aloud the closing hymn. If you desire to receive Holy Communion, please text/call Pastor (he is usually at the church for a while on Sundays).

CLOSING HYMN: Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

LSB 918

1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious
bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,
Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,
Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,
bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no
strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to
more; Feed me till I want no more.
shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.
Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.

Text and tune: Public Domain

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

Holly and I played hooky from all of the planning and stressing and general being-overwhelmed-with-the-move stuff yesterday and snuck out to see a movie! Special thanks go to Tanya Milan for hanging with our boys (Leo was super-excited to have a visitor and show-off his car collection).

We went to see the movie “Free Guy” starring Ryan Reynolds. It’s a fun little movie about the unseen lives of the background characters in a computer game. Oh, there’s also the little matter about this computer character becoming sentient, falling in love with a real-life person playing the game, and having to save his computer world from being destroyed and all that. The typical average-guy-somehow-saves-the-world kind of thing, right?

Now, I have to admit that I have a pretty big man-crush on him! He is quite a handsome fellow with an effervescent personality and a quirky sense of humor (or at least that is his public persona and the general type of character that he plays in movies). I mean, he’s no William Shatner, but still . . . LOL! I did rather enjoy his movie.

But it has been YEARS since Holly and I went to see a movie, partly because there aren’t that many movies that we really want to see (I’m looking at you, Hollywood! Do better!). I’d almost forgotten how fun it is just to BE AT THE MOVIES with the smell of movie-theater popcorn and the big movie posters and the garish carpeting!



Of course, there is a kind of tradition one must observe with movies: popcorn, soda, and candy! It’s all astronomically expensive but worth it for the experience! And then there is the sticky floor as you walk to your seats (not too sticky—they keep the theater clean) and the extra deep bass in the speakers that rattles your tailbone when things explode on the screen. So fun!

And that is the magic of the movie theater: a timed escape from the real world with all its stresses and worries. I say “timed” because you must get up and leave the theater after the movie. When you watch TV at home, it’s all too easy just to “veg-out” and let hours slip by without any purpose and sometimes without even paying attention! And that isn’t really an escape at all—it’s entrapment!

As with all good gifts (what theologians call “First Article Gifts” because they fall under the First Article of the Creed as those created/physical things that God, the Father, gives us each day), entertainment can be abused and lead us to avoid the world, to avoid our problems, and to shut ourselves off from others, until such a time as everything comes to a head and the world comes crashing down! I’ve been there and done that . . . it’s so easy to do.

So, brothers and sisters, enjoy entertainment—make time for it but also keep it to that fixed time—so that you can “leave the theater” refreshed and ready to tackle anew the work that God gives in your many vocations!

Speaking of making time . . . make time for our **study of the Psalms every Tuesday at Noon on “Zoom.”** This week we’ll be **studying Psalm 53**. And I would love for you to make time to tune-in or come by the church for our **7:00pm Prayer Service on Wednesday**.

- 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 computer and telephone is “12345”

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

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw