



**“In the world you will have tribulation.
But take heart; I have overcome the world.”**

+ John 16:33b

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2020



Paul in Front of the Areopagus by Franz Georg Hermann, 1729
Photo by Adreas Praefcke; Public Domain

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

During these great fifty days of Easter, the risen Lord Jesus is appearing and speaking to His disciples before His ascension into heaven and the coming of the Holy Spirit—the Comforter, the Paraclete, the Advocate—on the Fiftieth Day after Easter (also known as Pentecost, coming from the Greek word for fifty). And with Pentecost comes the “birth” of the Church (in a manner of speaking). So these fifty days are a kind of preparation for us, the Church today, as we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the sending of His disciples to proclaim throughout all the world the salvation we have in His name!

As Scripture says, “The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him” (Hab 2:20). So today we gather in reverent, holy anticipation as we hear the words of Jesus in John’s inspired account, recalling His promise given on Holy Thursday, His word concerning the promise that He would send “another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth” (John 14:16–17). This same Holy Spirit is wherever He creates and sustains faith through God’s Word – even online with Facebook Live!

Now, Jesus says the world cannot receive, see, or know the Spirit. So our first reading from Acts tells how Paul found this to be true in Athens as he noticed an altar dedicated “To the unknown god.” Though many in our day certainly have heard about Jesus, they do not know Him apart from faith in His word. But you know Him! Baptized into Christ, His resurrection life has given us new life—a life shaped by and lived in the Love of Christ.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s phone: (760) 679-3699
Pastor’s email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✠ MATINS ✠

OPENING HYMN: Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

LSB 556, sts. 1-4



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, With ex - ul - ta - tion
 2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; Death brood-ed dark - ly
 3 My own good works all came to naught, No grace or mer - it
 4 But God had seen my wretch-ed state Be - fore the world's foun -

spring-ing, And with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly
 o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; In sin my
 gain - ing; Free will a - gainst God's judg - ment fought, Dead to all
 da - tion, And mind - ful of His mer - cies great, He planned for

rap - ture sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God has done, How
 moth-er bore me. But dai - ly deep - er still I fell; My
 good re - main - ing. My fears in - creased till sheer de - spair Left
 my sal - va - tion. He turned to me a fa - ther's heart; He

His right arm the vic - t'ry won. What price our ran - som cost Him!
 life be - came a liv - ing hell, So firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.
 on - ly death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suf - fered.
 did not choose the eas - y part But gave His dear - est trea - sure.

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



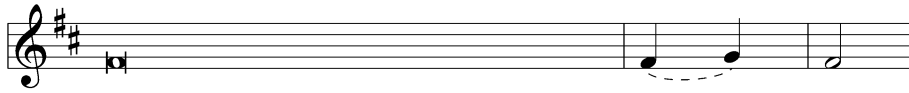
L The Lord is risen in - deed. Al - le - lu - ia.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

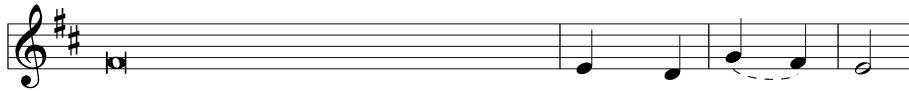
Venite

Psalm 95: 1-7



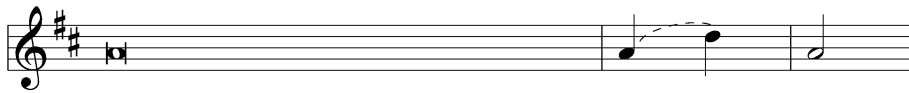
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great God
3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

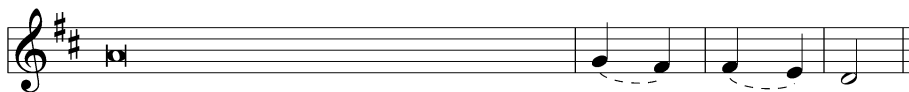


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
3 and His hand formed the dry land.

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.

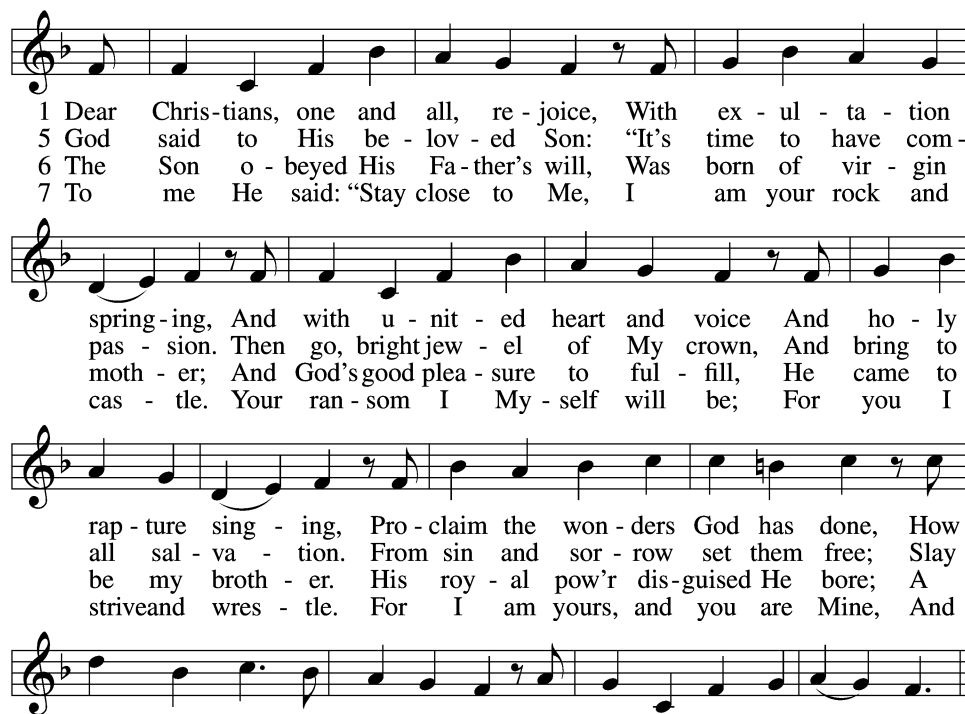


L The Lord is risen in - deed. Al - le - lu - ia.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Sit



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re-joice, With ex-ul-ta-tion
 5 God said to His be-lov-ed Son: "It's time to have com-
 6 The Son o-beyed His Fa-ther's will, Was born of vir-gin
 7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me, I am your rock and
 spring-ing, And with u-nit-ed heart and voice And ho-ly
 pas-sion. Then go, bright jew-el of My crown, And bring to
 moth-er; And God's good plea-sure to ful-fill, He came to
 cas-tle. Your ran-som I My-self will be; For you I
 rap-ture sing-ing, Pro-claim the won-ders God has done, How
 all sal-va-tion. From sin and sor-row set them free; Slay
 be my broth-er. His roy-al pow'r dis-guised He bore; A
 strive and wres-tle. For I am yours, and you are Mine, And
 His right arm the vic-t'ry won. What price our ran-som cost Him!
 bit-ter death for them that they May live with You for-ev-er."
 ser-vant's form, like mine, He wore To lead the dev-il cap-tive.
 where I am you may re-main; The foe shall not di-vide us.

READINGS

FIRST READING

Acts 17:16–31

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babblers wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for 'In Him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are indeed His offspring.' ²⁹Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the Divine Being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a Man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead."

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit, ¹⁹in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE



Romans 6:9; John 16:33b

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. Alleluia.



HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:15–21

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the fourteenth chapter.



[Jesus said:] ¹⁵“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



RESPONSORY: Easter

Psalm 96:2; Psalm 29:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:20



- V** 1 Sing to the Lord and bless His name, proclaim His salvation from day to day.
2 Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of them that sleep.
3 Glory be to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



- R** Give to the Lord all glo - ry and strength, give Him the
hon - or due His name. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Sit

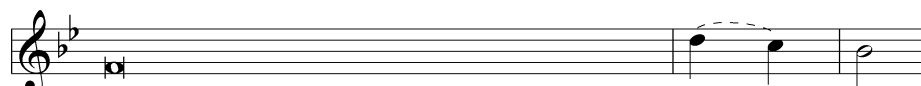
SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

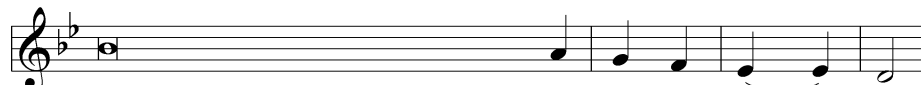
CANTICLE

Stand

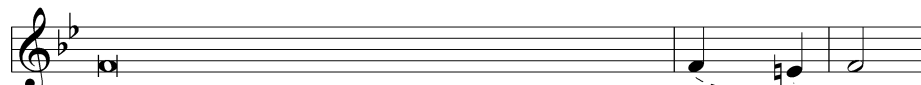
TE DEUM: We Praise You, O God



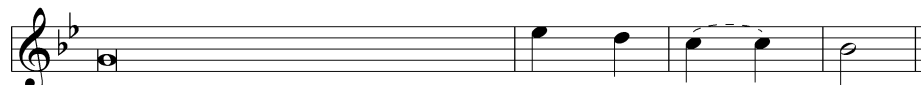
- T** 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs praise — You.



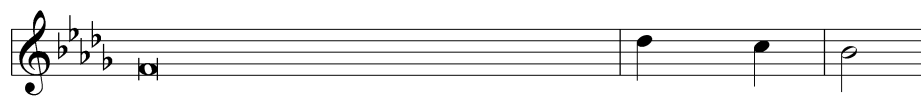
- 1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



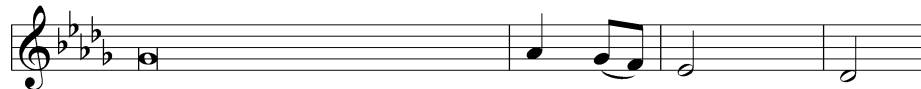
- 1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
2 The glorious company of the apostles praise — You.
3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
4 You are the king of glory, O — Christ;



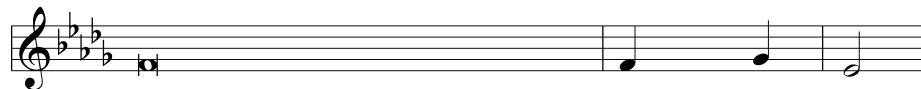
- 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise — You.
3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



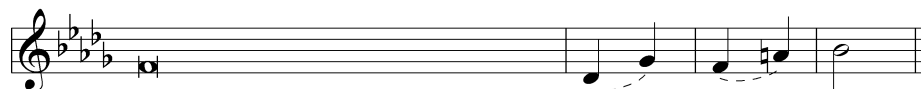
5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



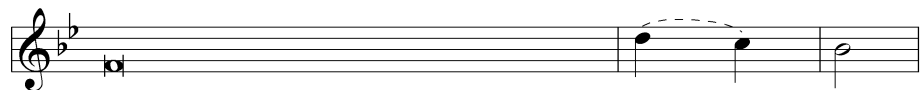
5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



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



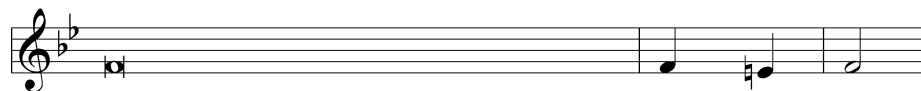
5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.



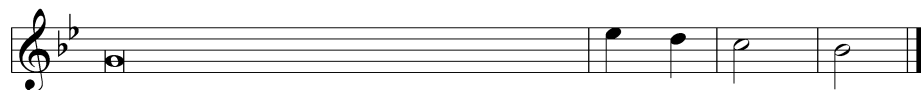
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,
8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out sin.



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 Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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 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.



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.



Stand

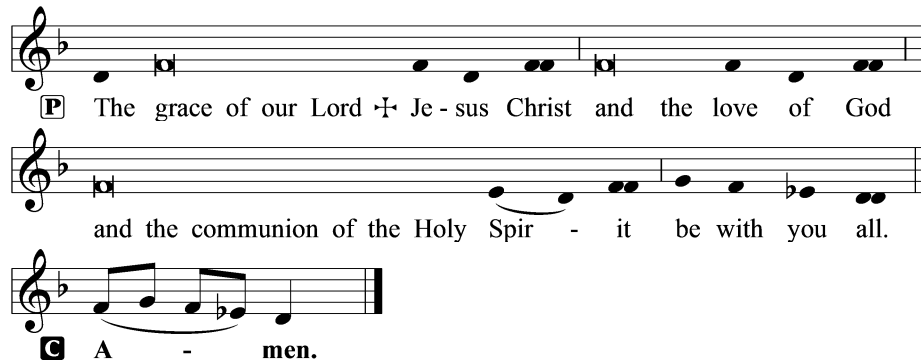
BENEDICAMUS

Psalm 103:1



BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14



CLOSING HYMN: Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

LSB 556, sts. 1, 8–10



Text and tune: Public domain

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

This last week has been harder than most but I couldn't tell you why exactly. Maybe it's just that I'm sad – I miss everybody and I miss things being “normal.” Of course “normal” seems like it's a long way away as well, with all the talk of continued social-distancing and limiting the size of social gatherings and the “phased” approach to “opening up.”

Or maybe it's that I'm somehow (however reluctantly or unwillingly) getting used to this new reality of being isolated and only getting to interact with others through digital means . . . and that scares me to think that this might be “just how it is from now on.”

But this isn't right – this isn't how we are supposed to be. We are made for community – we are made for relationship! Why else would God have joined His creation and become a man in Christ Jesus!

So for now we endure – we do so for love of the neighbor and in loving deference to those whom God has appointed to lead and govern. We trust that they are doing their best and, as one people, we are muddling through this as best we can. Has all of this been necessary? Did we go too far? Did we not do enough? These questions are best left to the ages, to those who follow and have the benefit of hindsight.

I pray for each and every one of you every day. I pray for myself and for my family, both near and far. I pray that God would lift this pandemic from us, according to His will, or give us grace to accept this affliction and sustain us and sustain our leaders in the days and weeks (and months?) that lie ahead.

It isn't a replacement for actually meeting but it sure is nice to see and talk to people on the “Zoom” platform (video/audio conferencing). So, please join me on “Zoom” for our **Bible study on the Psalms** (this week we study Psalm 4). The study is **every Tuesday at Noon**. The first 15 minutes will be a time to catch-up and check-in to make sure we're all doing okay. The study itself will start at 12:15pm and will wrap up at 12:45pm. We'll then close with prayer and have a chance to say goodbye before 1:00pm.

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715> (no password needed).
- To join by phone, please call either “669-900-9128” or “346-248-7799” and enter 7603525715# when prompted.

And join me **each Wednesday night at 7:00pm** on Facebook for a short (30 minute) **service of prayer and meditation** on the psalm for each week (this Wednesday will be a meditation on Psalm 4). 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, while our physical gatherings are suspended, please remember that the work of Christ's church continues. Please 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

Acknowledgments

Matins from Lutheran Service Book

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