



But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying,

**“Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.”**

+ Matthew 14:27

## THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 9, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Year over year in the life of the Church, we hear the stories about Jesus Christ and the pattern of His life guides the pattern of our worship life (roughly Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and the Time of the Church). As our life in Christ matures, these stories become familiar to us—and this is a good thing!

But familiarity can also serve to diminish the amazement and wonder of what these stories tell us: that there has never been anyone like Jesus Christ! He has divine power that can heal the sick, revive the dead, and multiply loaves and fishes! Today we hear how He can even walk on water! What astonishing feats! What miraculous signs!

Nobody else has ever done these things! Only Jesus—true God and true Man—does these amazing things . . . things that should always amaze and astonish us, and remind us that He is the Messiah, the Christ, the Immanuel, who comes with His Word and Sacraments to heal us, to forgive our sins, and to give us life everlasting. Amen.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
+Pastor Griebelaw

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Pastor's email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

## † MATINS †

### OPENING HYMN: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

LSB 849

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -  
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet  
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered

at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,  
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons  
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious

Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the  
With the pierc - ing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool  
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and

Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm-ing  
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this  
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us

storms, and feed - ing thou-sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.  
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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*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.

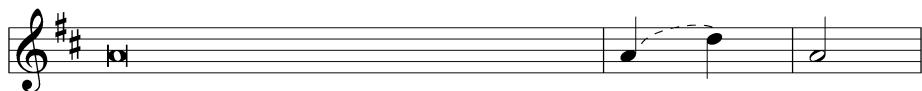
## PSALMODY

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

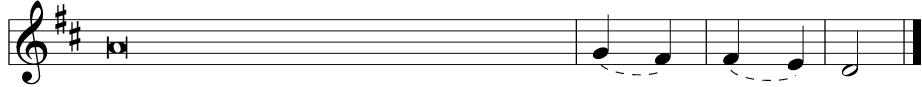
Venite

*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-en ed us in the true faith.



**C** O come, let us wor - ship Him.

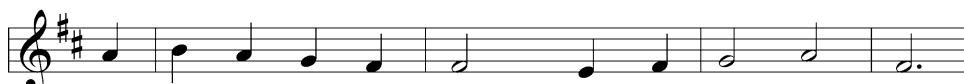
*Sit*

### OFFICE HYMN: Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

LSB 722



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;  
 2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear,  
 3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,



Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.  
 For You, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.  
 I know that You will strength - en My steps toward home.



With - out Your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;  
 Close by Your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,  
 Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;



So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.  
 For when Your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.  
 So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

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## READINGS

### FIRST READING

*Job 38:4–18*

**P** The Old Testament Reading is from Job, chapter 38.

<sup>4</sup> [The LORD said to Job:] “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?  
Tell Me, if you have understanding.

<sup>5</sup> Who determined its measurements—surely you know!  
Or who stretched the line upon it?

<sup>6</sup> On what were its bases sunk,  
or who laid its cornerstone,

<sup>7</sup> when the morning stars sang together  
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

<sup>8</sup> “Or who shut in the sea with doors  
when it burst out from the womb,

<sup>9</sup> when I made clouds its garment  
and thick darkness its swaddling band,

<sup>10</sup> and prescribed limits for it  
and set bars and doors,

<sup>11</sup> and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,  
and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?

<sup>12</sup> “Have you commanded the morning since your days began,  
and caused the dawn to know its place,

<sup>13</sup> that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,  
and the wicked be shaken out of it?

<sup>14</sup> It is changed like clay under the seal,  
and its features stand out like a garment.

<sup>15</sup> From the wicked their light is withheld,  
and their uplifted arm is broken.

<sup>16</sup> “Have you entered into the springs of the sea,  
or walked in the recesses of the deep?

<sup>17</sup> Have the gates of death been revealed to you,  
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

<sup>18</sup> Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?  
Declare, if you know all this.”

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### SECOND READING

*Romans 10:5–17*

**P** The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 10.

<sup>5</sup> Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. <sup>6</sup>But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup>or “Who will descend into the abyss?” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup>But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

<sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. <sup>11</sup>For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on Him.

<sup>13</sup>For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

<sup>14</sup>But how are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup>And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” <sup>16</sup>But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “LORD, who has believed what he has heard from us?” <sup>17</sup>So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

**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 14:27

Alleluia. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “**Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.**” Alleluia.

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22–33

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

C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup>Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup>And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, <sup>24</sup>but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup>And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup>But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup>But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “**Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.**”

<sup>28</sup>And Peter answered Him, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” <sup>29</sup>He said, “**Come.**” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” <sup>31</sup>Jesus immediately reached out His hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “**O you of little faith, why did you doubt?**” <sup>32</sup>And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup>And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## RESPONSORY

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

Verse  
C 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 Spir - it.

To Refrain

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

*Sit*

## SERMON

Rev. Griebenaaw

## 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;

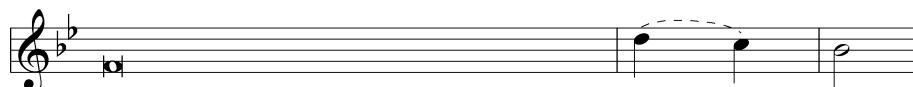
1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:  
2 The goodly fellowship of the proph - ets praise You.  
3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com - fort - er.  
4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.

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

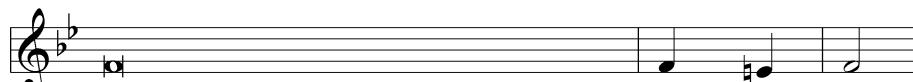
5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.  
6 to be our judge.



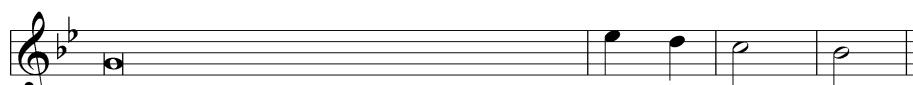
7 We therefore pray You to help Your . . . . . ser - - vants,  
8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.  
9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - - out sin.



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*



C 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



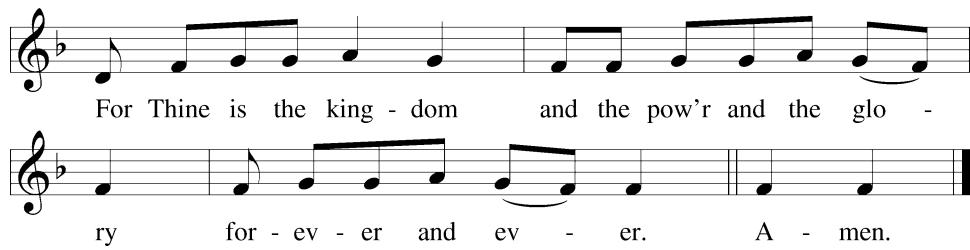
bread; and for-give us our tres-pass - es as we for-give



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



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



## COLLECTS



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with your spir - it.

### *Collect of the Day*

**P** Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what You want done; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



### *Collect for Pardon, Growth in Grace, and Divine Protection*

**P** O Lord, our God, we acknowledge Your great goodness toward us and praise You for the mercy and grace that our eyes have seen, our ears have heard, and our hearts have known. We sincerely repent of the sins of this day and those in the past. Pardon our offenses, correct and reform what is lacking in us, and help us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Inscribe Your law upon our hearts, and equip us to serve You with holy and blameless lives. May each day remind us of the coming of the night when no one can work. In the emptiness of this present age keep us united by a living faith through the power of Your Holy Spirit with Him who is the resurrection and the life, that we may escape the eternal bitter pains of condemnation. By Your Holy Spirit bless the preaching of Your Word and the administration of Your Sacraments. Preserve these gifts to us and to all Christians. Guard and protect us from all dangers to body and soul. Grant that we may with faithful perseverance receive from You our sorrows as well as our joys, knowing that health and sickness, riches and poverty, and all things come by permission of Your fatherly hand. Keep us this day under Your protective care and preserve us, securely trusting in Your everlasting goodness and love, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*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*

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, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

*LSB 924*

1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's  
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling  
  
joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,  
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion  
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,  
  
Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;  
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,  
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,  
  
O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.  
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

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

## SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

One of the things I brought up in today's sermon was expectations. We expect certain people to behave certain ways—and these expectations are not always based on the person but rather on their vocation/station in life (e.g. parents and children, supervisors and employees, teachers and students, etc.).

And when these expectations are not met, what is our typical reaction? "That kid is a hellion." "My boss is an egomaniac." "My teacher hates me." When someone fails to meet our expectations, we place the fault squarely on them—*they* did not do/behave the way *I* felt they should be.

It isn't always others that disappoint . . . sometimes we fail to meet our *own expectations* of how we should act or feel. And when this happens, we play the fault game to its worst effect: "I am a failure." "I am stupid." "I am ugly." "I am worthless."

Instead of laying fault with the person (or ourselves), we really ought to look back to the expectation: "Was this a realistic expectation?" "Was it fair?" "Is it even a helpful or good expectation?" All too often, we seek to escape situations where reality and our expectations diverge. All too often, we set ourselves up to encounter the same discouragement and frustration over and over again.

To be sure, there are reasonable and right expectations—God-pleasing expectations are given us throughout Holy Scripture (and the most common are illuminated for us in Luther's Small Catechism where he talks about the Table of Duties).

When others falter and fall short of these Godly expectations (as surely they shall), we are compelled by Christian love to forgive and continue to bear each other's burdens (failures, unmet expectations, struggles with sin), for "as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive" (Col. 3:13).

And when we falter and fall short of these Godly expectations (as surely we shall), we are not left to drown but invited to cry out as Saint Peter and countless saints before us have done, "Lord, save me" (Matt. 14:30). Surely, He has; surely, He does; surely, He will, always!

I invite you to participate in 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 16. **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-minutes) **service of prayer and meditation** on the psalm. The service folder will be on our website ([www.GraceLutheranElCentro.org](http://www.GraceLutheranElCentro.org)) and the live-stream will be on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranElCentro](http://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