



“Whoever finds his life will lose it,
and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”

+ *Matthew 10:39*

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 28, 2020



The Christian Martyrs' Last Prayer, between 1863 and 1883, by Jean-Léon Gérôme (1824–1904), Public Domain

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Without the truly good news of the Gospel we cannot see the hard truth that we and all people are poor sinners who deserve nothing but punishment from almighty God. It takes the Gospel to open our eyes wide to the severity of God's Law, which our Savior took on Himself in our stead.

In Jeremiah's day, as in our own, false prophets proclaim an easy peace that requires little change in our daily living. Now, as when Paul was writing, some people in the Church think the freedom Christ won for us means a disregard for God's Law. And when Jesus was calling new disciples, He warned them that following Him would mean "a sword" coming between them and even members of their families, that some of their own family members would actively, even severely, oppose their following the Lord.

But the Gospel announces what is real and good: God has kept all His promises in our Savior Jesus Christ. His death shows the enormity of the punishment we rightly deserve, and His resurrection assures us of eternal life. In Christ, the peace that only God can bestow has been given to us by grace. Because of the truly good news of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can face the hard truth of our sinfulness and then sing with the psalmist of the one true and enduring good, "the steadfast love of the Lord, forever" (Psalm 89:1).

Yours in Christ Jesus,

+Pastor Griebenaw

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Pastor's email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✠ MATINS ✠

OPENING HYMN: O God, My Faithful God

LSB 696, sts. 1-4



1 O God, my faith - ful God, True foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
 2 Grant me the strength to do With read - y heart and will - ing
 3 Keep me from say - ing words That lat - er need re - call - ing;
 4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind - ly words and ac - tions,



With - out whom noth - ing is, All per - fect gifts be - stow - ing;
 What - ev - er You com - mand, My call - ing here ful - fill - ing;
 Guard me lest i - dle speech May from my lips be fall - ing;
 And let me find good friends For coun - sel and cor - rec - tion.



Give me a health - y frame, And may I have with - in
 That I do what I should While trust - ing You to bless
 But when with - in my place I must and ought to speak,
 Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small



A con - science free from blame, A soul un - stained by sin.
 The out - come for my good, For You must give suc - cess.
 Then to my words give grace Lest I of - fend the weak.
 And by Your Spir - it's might To live in peace with all.

Text and tune: Public domain

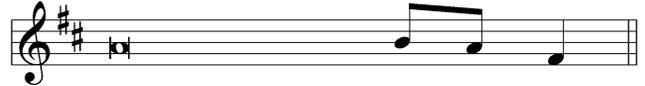
Stand

OPENING VERSICLES

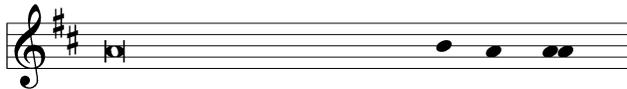
Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1



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



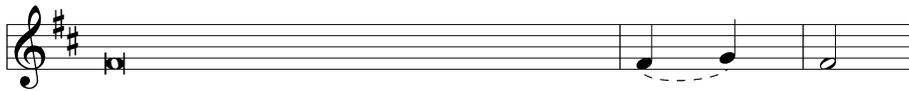
L The Lord has en-light-ened us in the true faith.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite

Psalm 95: 1-7



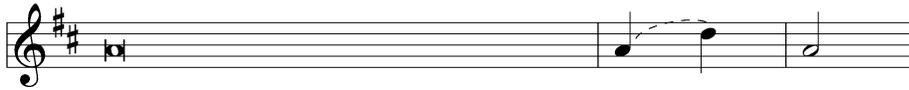
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great God
3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

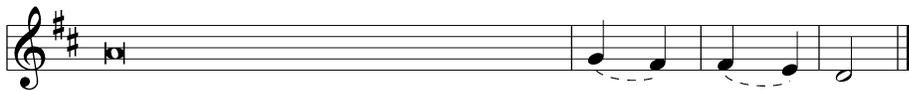


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
3 and His hand formed the dry land.

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



1 All for Christ I have for - sak - en And have
 2 Who is sweet - er than Christ Je - sus? No good
 3 Gone the past, un - known the fu - ture— Grace sup -
 4 When God takes me home to heav - en, Should this
 5 Though the road a - head be thorn - y, Though dark

tak - en up my cross; World - ly joy, its
 thing in Him I lack! Hand to plow, at
 plies my dai - ly breath; Strong in Christ through
 be the day I die, God will keep my
 clouds all light ob - scure, Though my cross - shaped

fame and for - tune, Now I count as worth - less dross.
 peace I fol - low Where He leads me . . . why look back?
 death's dark val - ley, Firm and faith - ful un - to death.
 spouse and chil - dren As the ap - ple of His eye.
 path grows steep - er, With the Lord, I am se - cure.

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READINGS

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 28:5–9

⁵Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. ⁷Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.”

- L** O Lord, have mercy on us.
C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 7:1–13

¹Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? ²Thus a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. ³Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

⁴Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to Him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. ⁵For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.

⁷What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” ⁸But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law, sin lies dead. ⁹I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. ¹⁰The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. ¹¹For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. ¹²So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

¹³Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

- 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 10:39

Alleluia. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. Alleluia.



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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 10:34-42

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁴[Jesus said:] “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸And whoever does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

⁴⁰“Whoever receives you receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. ⁴¹The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. ⁴²And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

RESPONSORY

Psalms 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 Spir - it.

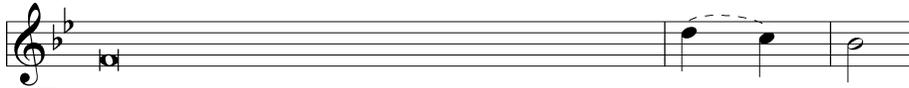


C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glo-ry dwells.

CANTICLE

Stand

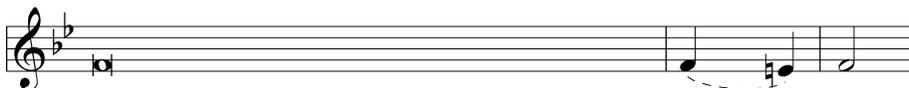
TE DEUM: We Praise You, O God



- 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.



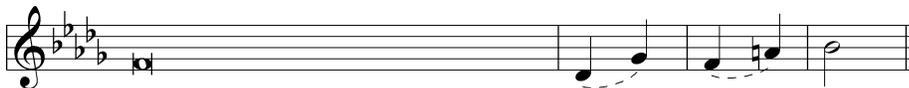
- 5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
- 6 You sit at the right hand of God



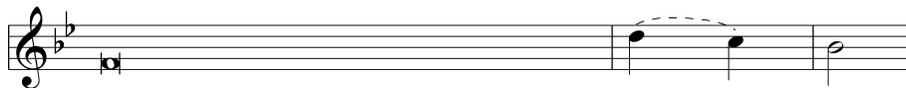
- 5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
- 6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



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



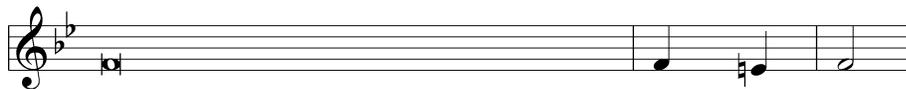
- 5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
- 6 to be our judge.



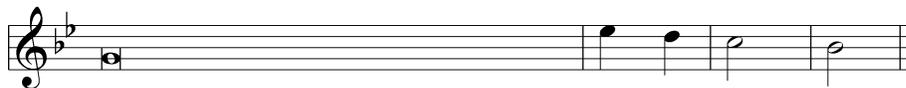
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,
 8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
 9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out _____ sin.



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.

G And with your spir - it.

Collect of the Day

P Almighty God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; 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 Holy 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, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G A - men.

Collect During for Peace

P Heavenly Father, God of all concord, it is Your gracious will that Your children on earth live together in harmony and peace. Defeat the plans of all those who would stir up violence and strife, destroy the weapons of those who delight in war and bloodshed, and, according to Your will, end all conflicts in the world. Teach us to examine our hearts that we may recognize our own inclination toward envy, malice, hatred, and enmity. Help us, by Your Word and Spirit, to search our hearts and to root out the evil that would lead to strife and discord, so that in our lives we may be at peace with all people. Fill us with zeal for the work of Your Church and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which alone can bring that peace which is beyond all understanding; 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.

G 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: O God, My Faithful God

LSB 699, sts. 1, 5-6



1 O God, my faith - ful God, True foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
5 Let me de - part this life Con - fid - ing in my Sav - ior;
6 And on that fi - nal day When all the dead are wak - ing,



With - out whom noth - ing is, All per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
By grace re - ceive my soul That it may live for - ev - er;
Stretch out Your might - y hand, My death - ly slum - ber break - ing.



Give me a health - y frame, And may I have with - in
And let my bod - y have A qui - et rest - ing place
Then let me hear Your voice, Re - deem this earth - ly frame,



A con - science free from blame, A soul un - stained by sin.
With - in a Chris - tian grave; And let it sleep in peace.
And bid me to re - joice With those who love Your name.

Text and tune: Public domain

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

A very wise Man once said, “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble” (Matt. 6:34). That Man, of course, is Christ Jesus (I know, adding the reference to Holy Scripture kinda gave it away).

But anxiety seems to be the order of the day, as of late. And the news is all about the anxiety of tomorrow ... and the next day and the day after that. . . . It seems rather inescapable.

Now, before I write any more, please remember that **if there is ever a change to our service schedule we will post that to our website (www.GraceLutheranElCentro.org), on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranElCentro), and through our email list** (you can sign-up to receive email updates through the form at the very bottom of our website).

However, there Imperial County Health Officer has *not* issued any revised orders as of yet so we will continue with our in-person service at 9:00am on Sundays (as well as our 10:30 Sunday online service, our “Zoom” Bible Study on Tuesdays at Noon, and our Wednesday 7:00pm Compline online service). **If new directives come, know that our church leadership (Council, Elders, and Pastor) will confer and, in prayer and through the Holy Spirit, work to make a God-pleasing decision, as needed.**

That being said, I also grow tired of all this anxiety and fear and bad news. So . . . I thought I’d just write about something fun! Now, cats and Star Trek and Las Vegas are my go-to topics but so also are “Uncle Jokes” (you know, the ones that your weird uncle tells that make everybody groan)!

So, here are a few oldies but goodies to brighten your day:

- What kind of piano is used at comedy clubs? . . . A Yamaha-ha-ha!
- Why was there a tax to vote in the Whig candidate primary? . . . Because they had toupee!
- What is a magician’s favorite breed of dog? . . . A Labracadabrador!
- Why did the melons have to get married in the church? . . . Because they cantaloupe!
- When is the best time to visit the dentist? . . . At Tooth-Hurty (2:30)!
- Why did Leo’s teddy bear refuse dessert? . . . Because he was stuffed!
- Why don’t you invite Star Trek fans to parties? . . . Because of their warped sense of humor!

Now, I can’t promise not to regale you with more of these beauts but please join me anyhow 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 10.

- 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