

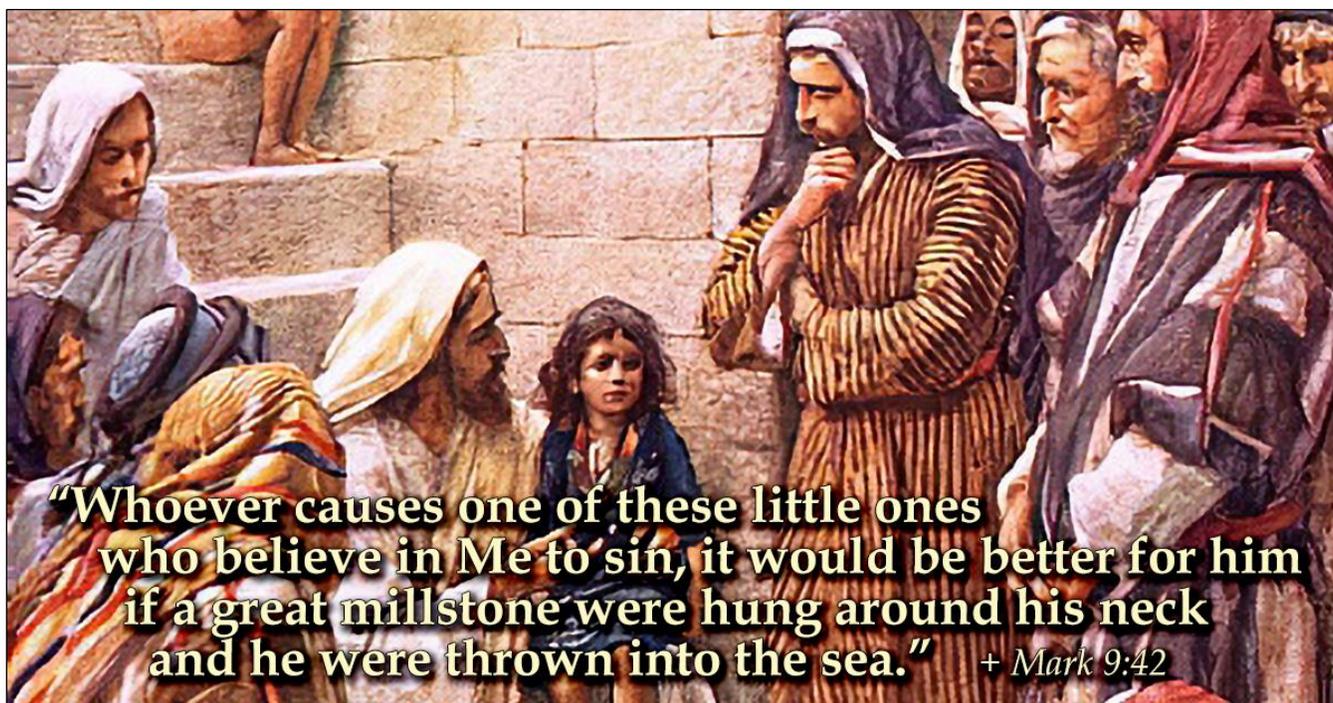


**“Have salt in yourselves,
and be at peace with one another.”**

+ *Mark 9:50b*

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 26, 2021



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In biblical times, salt was treasured almost as much as gold. Among its many uses was preserving food and other perishables. In today’s Gospel, Jesus calls us salt, by which He reveals how much God values us.

Sometimes people outside the Church also see our worth and offer their support. It is nothing new. Moses valued two men who received the Spirit even though they were missing from gathering with the seventy elders. Jesus valued a man healing in His name, though he was not one of the Twelve.

We are worth our salt—Christ in us—so much that a person receiving us receives Christ. And within the Church, our saltiness supports, prays for, cheers up, confesses, and forgives our brothers and sister in Christ.

We are worth so much that God does not want anything to cause us to stumble. “Have salt in yourselves,” He says, “and be at peace with one another.”

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s Phone: 760-679-3699

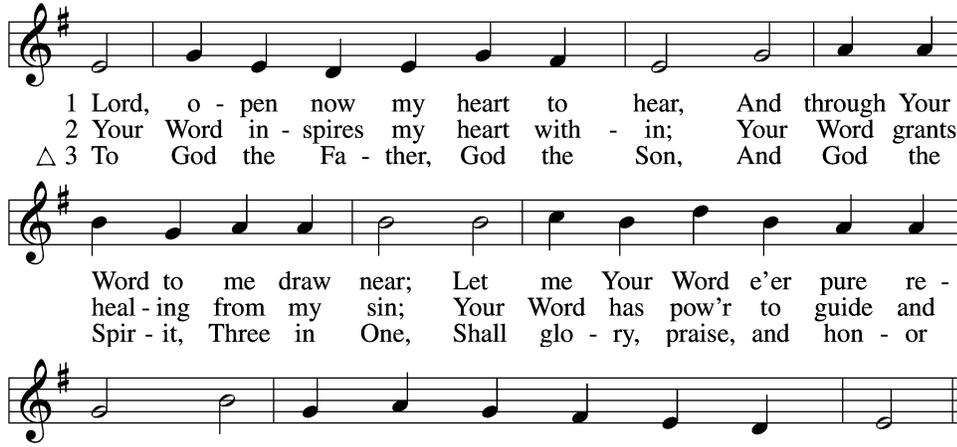
Pastor’s Email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

P.S. You can now donate online at www.GraceLutheranElCentro.org/give

✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION: Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear

LSB 908



1 Lord, o - pen now my heart to hear, And through Your
2 Your Word in - spires my heart with - in; Your Word grants
△ 3 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the
Word to me draw near; Let me Your Word e'er pure re -
heal - ing from my sin; Your Word has pow'r to guide and
Spir - it, Three in One, Shall glo - ry, praise, and hon - or
tain; Let me Your child and heir re - main.
bless; Your Word brings peace and hap - pi - ness.
be Now and through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text (st. 2): © 1993 Mark A. Jeske. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000347; text (sts. 1, 3) and tune: Public Domain

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

CONFESSION 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 135:1-3, 13-14; antiphon: v. 13

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



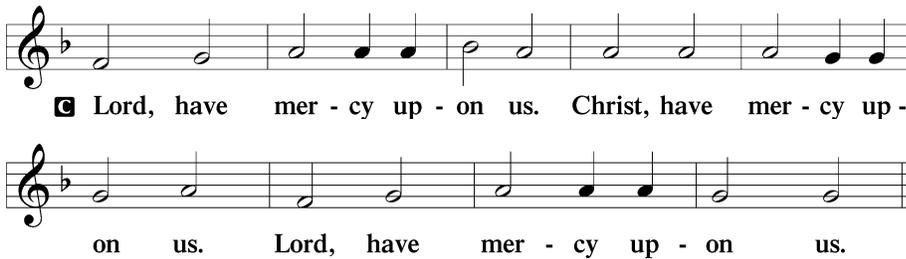
(Antiphon) Your name, O LORD, endures for- | ever,*
Your renown, O LORD, throughout all | ages.

- 1 Praise the LORD! Praise the name | of the LORD,*
give praise, O servants | of the LORD,
- 2 **who stand in the house | of the LORD,***
in the courts of the house | of our God!
- 3 Praise the LORD, for the | LORD is good;*
sing to His name, for it is | pleasant!
- 13 **Your name, O LORD, endures for- | ever,***
Your renown, O LORD, throughout all | ages.
- 14 For the LORD will vindicate His | people*
and have compassion on His | servants.
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



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



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.

Everlasting Father, source of every blessing, mercifully direct and govern us by Your Holy Spirit that we may complete the works You have prepared for us to do; 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

Numbers 11:4–6, 10–16, 24–29

P The Old Testament Reading is from Numbers, chapter 11.

⁴Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, “Oh that we had meat to eat! ⁵We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. ⁶But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at. . . .”

¹⁰Moses heard the people weeping throughout their clans, everyone at the door of his tent. And the anger of the LORD blazed hotly, and Moses was displeased. ¹¹Moses said to the LORD, “Why have You dealt ill with Your servant? And why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You lay the burden of all this people on me? ¹²Did I conceive all this people? Did I give them birth, that You should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a nursing child,’ to the land that You swore to give their fathers? ¹³Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me and say, ‘Give us meat, that we may eat.’ ¹⁴I am not able to carry all this people alone; the burden is too heavy for me. ¹⁵If You will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favor in Your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness.”

¹⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, “Gather for Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. . . .”

²⁴So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. ²⁵Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

²⁶Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.”

²⁸And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, “My lord Moses, stop them.”

²⁹But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, that the LORD would put His Spirit on them!”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 91:11; 103:1

The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.



He will command His angels con- | cerning you*

to guard you in | all your ways.

Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*

and all that is within me, bless His | holy name!

EPISTLE

James 5:1–20

P The Epistle is from James, chapter five.

¹Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. ²Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. ³Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.

⁴Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. ⁵You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

⁶You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

¹²But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

¹³Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. ¹⁷Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

¹⁹My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE

Mark 9:50b



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

Alleluia. Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another. Alleluia. *The alleluias are repeated.*

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:38–50

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁸John said to Him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.”

³⁹But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in My name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of Me. ⁴⁰For the one who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.

⁴²“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire, ⁴⁴‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’ ⁴⁵For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁶‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’ ⁴⁷For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’ ⁴⁹For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁴⁹For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

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: Triune God, Be Thou Our Stay

LSB 505 sts. 1-3

1 God the Fa - ther be our stay; O let us per-ish nev - er!
 2 Je - sus Christ, be Thou our stay; O let us per-ish nev - er!
 3 Ho - ly Spir - it, be our stay; O let us per-ish nev - er!

Cleanse us from our sins, we pray, And grant us life for - ev - er.

Keep us from the e - vil one; Up - hold our faith most ho - ly,

And let us trust Thee sole - ly With hum - ble hearts and low - ly.

Let us put God's ar - mor on, With all true Chris - tians run - ning

Our heav'n - ly race and shun - ning The dev - il's wiles and cun - ning.

A - men, a - men! This be done; So sing we, "Al - le - lu - ia!"

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.
- C** Amen.

Philippians 4:7

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 daily bread, that we would not crave and weep after what we no longer have, but be content with what God so graciously rains down upon us, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For pastors and their hearers, that the Holy Spirit would rest upon them; that pastors may prophesy God’s Word faithfully among us; and that we, in turn, may prophesy it in our homes and vocations, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For our lay leadership, that God bless them with necessary gifts of His Spirit to serve this congregation, support our pastor and uphold the ministry of Word and Sacrament amongst us, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For Joseph, Gavin, Cheryl, and those who bear the sword in our land, that sin and wickedness may be kept at bay and we may live peaceable lives in security, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the suffering, the sick, and those in any need of mind, body, or soul, that the Lord deal graciously with them, providing for every need of body and soul according to His will, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the family and friends of Ollie Grams whom our Lord has called to the blessed rest of His saints, that our heavenly Father uphold them in His peace and strengthen their faith in the joyful reunion of all who believe in the name of His only-begotten Son, our Savior, Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.

- P** For all who come to the altar to receive the heavenly manna of Christ's true body and most precious blood, that they be well salted with repentance and faith, and be at peace with one another, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, dear Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now 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** Almighty and everlasting God, You would have all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. By Your almighty power and unsearchable wisdom break and hinder all the counsels of those who hate Your Word and who, by corrupt teaching, would destroy it. Enlighten them with the knowledge of Your glory that they may know the riches of Your heavenly grace and, in peace and righteousness, serve You, the only true God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

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.**

Divine Service continues with the Lord's Supper for those at the church. Please sing/read-aloud the closing hymn at home.

CLOSING HYMN: Almighty Father, Bless the Word

LSB 923

1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your
 2 We praise You for the means of grace As home - ward
 Δ 3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all

grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious
 now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who
 crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye

seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit!
 wor - shiped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.
 heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

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 have been watching “WKRP in Cincinnati” at night. It’s nice to have a lighthearted, easygoing show to wind down the day. We started watching the show after I accepted the call to serve at KFUE Radio—if I’m going to work at a radio station, why not watch a sitcom about a radio station, right?

A strange coincidence is that the Programming Director in WKRP is named Andy and the Programming Director at KFUE is named Andy, also! That led me to wonder how the other characters might line-up with my future coworkers. Naturally, President Harrison is station owner Arthur Carlson, “The Big Guy.” And then there’s the sales manager Herb Tarlek, sort of a radio station version of a used car salesman. He deals with the clients . . . who pay money to the radio station . . . kinda like donors Oh no! I’m going to be Herb! LOL!

I remember watching “WKRP in Cincinnati” when I was a little kid (reruns, I suppose, since it debuted the same year that I was born). The part that I remember most is the closing theme. No, I can’t understand the lyrics very well (even the subtitling on the show sometimes displays “unintelligible” instead of a caption) but there is one part that mentions “At-at here and everywhere.” Being a science fiction nerd, I was convinced that the singer was talking about the giant AT-AT “walkers” in Star Wars! <grin>



Speaking of music, we had a brief excursus during the “Zoom” Bible Study last Tuesday about music and how some secular songs seem to fit with our relationship to Jesus. One example was “The Wind Beneath My Wings.” To a degree, this is true! I’ve thought the same thing about pop/dance songs I love. But it is true only to a degree.

Often, we think of our relationship with Jesus as a relationship all about love (and, yes, this is true)! But the kind of pop love songs are usually about a boy and girl. Our relationship with Jesus, while being all about love, isn’t the “love” that pop songs are talking about, even if that love means support and service and sacrifice. Pop songs almost always are talking about eros (sensual or romantic) love or perhaps philia (friendship) love. Holy Scripture (which mentioned eros and philia) also speaks of storge (family) love and agape (sacrificial) love.

The love of the Triune God transcends all of these ideas of love. To grasp the totality of love as God knows love, we look to Jesus—He is the love of God made manifest! Recall the beginning of the Gospel of John: “No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, He has made Him known” (John 1:18). Our Lord set aside His glory, “[emptying] Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men” (Phil 2:7), so that we might know God. And to know God is also to know the totality of God’s love, namely Jesus!

All this is to say that Jesus is so much more than our lover or our friend . . . He is our Lord, our Creator, our Redeemer, our Judge! He loves us and He is our friend, but in the most intimate and fearsome way! He is God!

Sadly, this Tuesday at Noon is our FINAL study of the Psalms on “Zoom.” We’re studying Psalm 58. I’d love to see you there and at the **final 7:00pm Prayer Service on Wednesday** (on Facebook or in-person).

- 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”



I also want to thank everyone, especially Kay and Michael Hodges, for throwing Sam such a lovely birthday party last Sunday! It was wonderful to celebrate God’s gift of little Sam with all of you! You truly are our family and we’ll miss all of you so very, very much!

Lastly, remember that **you can now give ONLINE** by going to www.GraceLutheranElCentro.org/give. You can make a one-time gift or set-up a recurring donation to Grace! Of course, you can still mail your check to our post office box: Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530. Thank you!

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw