



**“Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them,
for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”**

+ *Mark 10:14b*

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 3, 2021



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The pages of Holy Scripture counsel us regarding things that must not be neglected. Proverbs says plainly: “Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it” (Prov 8:33). Paul writes to young Timothy: “Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you” (1 Tim 4:14).

But the book of the Bible with the most reminders about what is not to be neglected is Hebrews; we are directed: do not neglect to do good (Heb 13:16), do not neglect to show hospitality (13:2), do not neglect to meet together (10:25), and do not neglect our great salvation (2:3).

My family and I will be keeping all of you in prayer, for as you await the arrival of your next undershepherd/pastor, the Devil, false teachers, false believers, and your own sinful flesh will all the more assail you. Yet do not neglect the great salvation that is yours in Christ Jesus—hold fast to the truth of God’s Word, equip yourself daily by studying your Catechism (and seriously consider tackling the Book of Concord, the Confession of the Lutheran Church and what Holy Scripture teaches . . . you may not like all that you read but it is God’s own truth), and “pay much closer attention to what [you] have heard, lest [you] drift away from it” (Heb 2:1).

Make me proud, Brothers and Sisters, and “hold fast to the word I preached to you” (1 Cor 15:2).

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s Phone: 760-679-3699

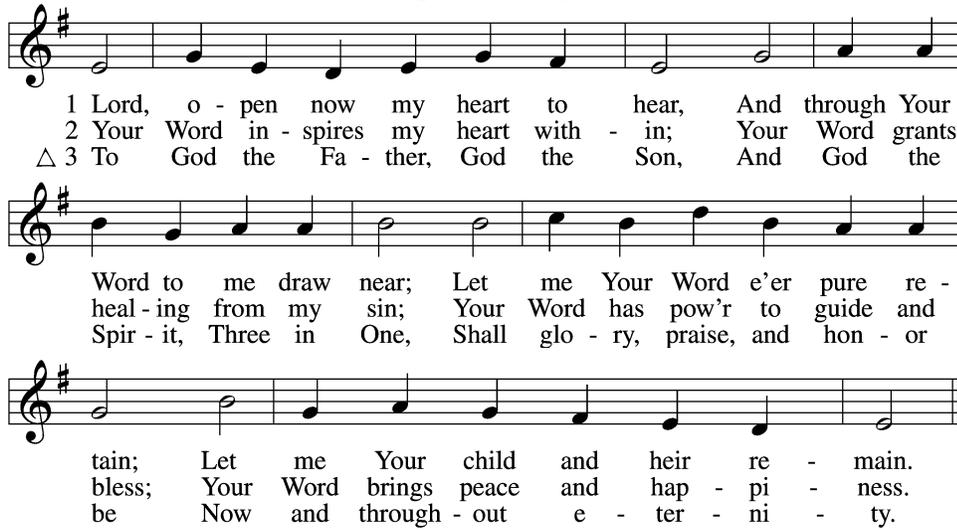
Pastor’s Email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

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✠ 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.

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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. *Psalm 124:8*
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Psalm 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 127:3–5; antiphon: v. 1a

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



(Antiphon) Unless the LORD | builds the house,*
those who build it la- | bor in vain.

³ Behold, children are a heritage | from the LORD,*
the fruit of the womb | a reward.

⁴ **Like arrows in the hand of a | warrior***
are the children | of one's youth.

⁵ Blessèd is the man who fills his quiver | with them!*

He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies | in the gate.

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,



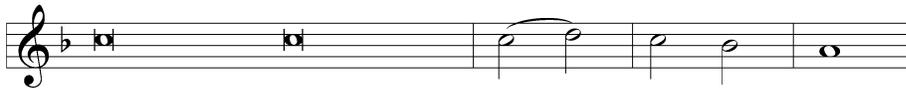
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



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



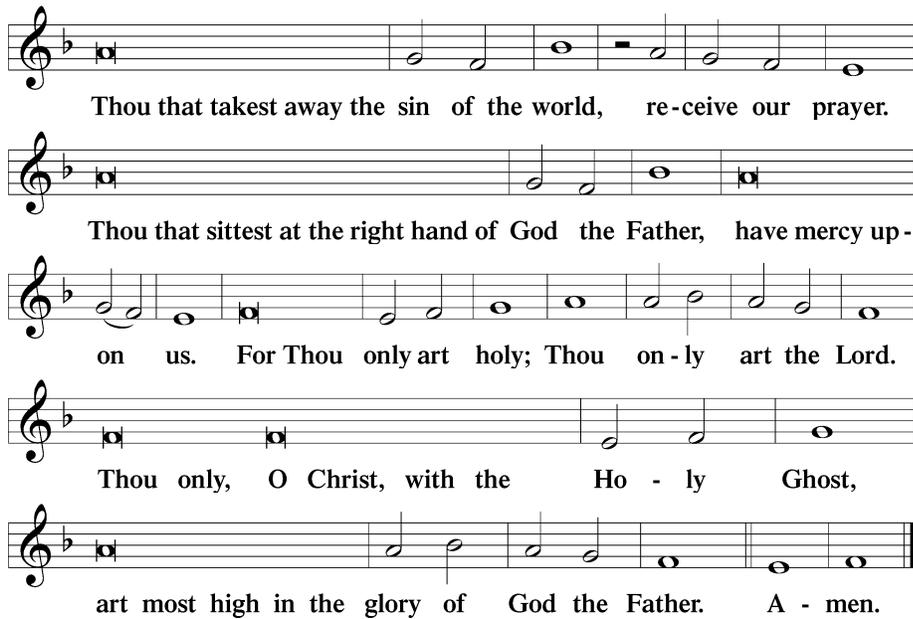
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



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.

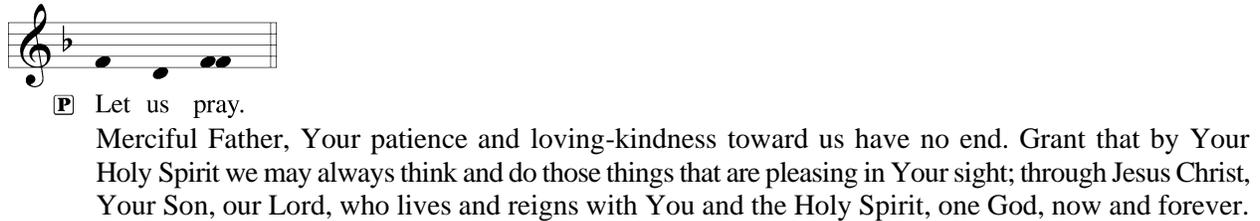
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

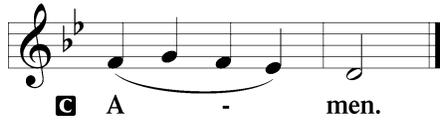
SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you. **C** And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.
 Merciful Father, Your patience and loving-kindness toward us have no end. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may always think and do those things that are pleasing 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.



C A - men.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 2:18-25

P The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, chapter two.

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
 and flesh of my flesh;
 she shall be called Woman,
 because she was taken out of Man.”

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

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

Hebrews 2

P The Epistle is from Hebrews, chapter two.

¹Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ²For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, ⁴while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will.

⁵Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. ⁶It has been testified somewhere,

“What is man, that You are mindful of him,
or the son of man, that You care for him?
7 You made him for a little while lower than the angels;
8 You have crowned him with glory and honor,
putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, He left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. ⁹But we see Him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰For it was fitting that He, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹For He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹²saying,

“I will tell of Your name to My brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise.”

¹³And again,

“I will put My trust in Him.”

And again,

“Behold, I and the children God has given Me.”

¹⁴Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels that He helps, but He helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For because He Himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE

Mark 10:14b



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

Alleluia. Let the children come to me; do not hinder them,
for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Alleluia.

The alleluias are repeated.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 10:2–16

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



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²Pharisees came up and in order to test [Jesus] asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”
³He answered them, “**What did Moses command you?**” ⁴They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.” ⁵And Jesus said to them, “**Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.** ⁶**But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’** ⁷**Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, ⁸and they shall become one flesh.** ⁹**So they are no longer two but one flesh.** ¹⁰**What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.**”

¹⁰And in the house the disciples asked Him again about this matter. ¹¹And He said to them, “**Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.**”

¹³And they were bringing children to Him that He might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them, “**Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.** ¹⁵**Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.**” ¹⁶And He took them in His arms and blessed them, laying His hands on them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

G 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 $\cdot\ddagger$ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY: Our Father, by Whose Name

LSB 863

1 Our Fa - ther, by whose name All fa - ther-hood is known,
 2 O Christ, Thy - self a child With - in an earth - ly home,
 3 O Spir - it, who dost bind Our hearts in u - ni - ty,

Who dost in love pro - claim Each fam - i - ly Thine own,
 With heart still un - de - filed, Thou didst to man-hood come;
 Who teach - est us to find The love from self set free,

Bless Thou all par - ents, guard - ing well, With con - stant love as
 Our chil - dren bless in ev - 'ry place That they may all be -
 In all our hearts such love in - crease That ev - 'ry home by

sen - ti - nel, The homes in which Thy peo - ple dwell.
 hold Thy face, And know - ing Thee may grow in grace.
 this re - lease May be the dwell - ing place of peace.

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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

Psalms 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 the faithful proclamation of Christ's saving name, that God's people may be strengthened in the true faith and His kingdom extended, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God would guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this congregation, her mission and her people; for the ability to meet the needs that arise as we do the work God has given us to do; and for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who partake this day of Christ's true body and most precious blood, that, coming in all humility and repentant joy, they may receive His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation, making the good confession of unity in faith and teaching, a foretaste of the feast to come, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who have wandered from the faith, that the Holy Spirit use us to call them home to the Father, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the government and all whom God has set over us, that they may use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of the people; especially we pray for Joseph, Gavin, and Cheryl, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who serve in worthy occupations, professions, arts, and sciences, that God grant them skill and integrity in the performance of their responsibilities and valued service through their vocations, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who suffer from want, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love would preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all the faithful, that the Holy Spirit would lead them to cheerful, generous giving from the bounty the Lord provides, to support the Church and to help those in need, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who beset by any illness or mind, body, or soul, that God would grant healing and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who mourn, that in their time of sorrow they would not lose hope but rely on God's promise that He will never leave them or forsake them, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For Pastor Griebenaw, that God grant him grace in his new field of service, readiness in his ministry, patience, understanding, a cheerful spirit, and great zeal; for Pastor's family, that You bless, protect, and defend them as they depart, granting them safe travels and a joy in their new home; and for the saints of Grace, that we may be kept in fellowship with all Your saints and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and 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.

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

FINAL “FINAL THOUGHTS” FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

Every Saturday, Holly and I try to enjoy a “Steak Night” (inspired by Turk and JD from the show “Scrubs”). We’re not purists about the “steak” because, more often than not, we get In-n-Out cheeseburgers (I mean, it IS meat that COULD have been a steak, right?). And since Saint Louis tragically does NOT have In-n-Out, we’ve been getting these tasty cheeseburgers almost EVERY Saturday.

Well, tonight as Holly stepped out the front door, we both shivered a little bit—it was COLD! So we looked at our phones to see just HOW COLD it really was: 84 degrees. Yep—84 degrees and we were cold! What happened?! The Valley has changed us . . . and we are going to be popsicles in Saint Louis! Lord, have mercy! LOL!

Of course, we are not going to such a cold and dreadful <kidding!> place unprepared; we got new raincoats and cold-weather clothes for Leo and Sam. Sam’s coat is a little black and white puppy dog (but I think he kinda looks like a little skunk when he runs around in it), and Leo’s coat is a beautiful teal color that he picked out himself! It only took him five years but he has finally decided what his favorite colors are: blue, green, and teal! They both were so happy to put on these cool, new coats (and didn’t want to take them off, even as they got a bit sweaty wearing them).

Going away from all of you is HARD! This is our HOME and you are our FAMILY! And as hard as this is on Holly and me, I can only imagine how hard this is for Leo! Tonight, as I tucked him into bed before this last Sunday where I will be your pastor, Leo asked me, “Are we never going to come back to our home?” My heart broke! This Sunday is the first step in the last chapter for our family here . . . and the whole thing is getting all too real for Leo (and us). I know he’s going to miss all of you terribly! Sam, too (though at only two years old, I think he’ll adjust a wee bit quicker than Leo or Holly or I).

And writing this final “Final Thoughts” has been hard. I cannot tell you how many “false starts” I have written, only to hit the Delete button and start again. In a lot of ways, between this service, sermon, and letter, I feel like a father preparing to send his kid off to college and wanting to impart a lifetime of wisdom before the child leaves. And, yes, I realize that I am the one departing . . . but it is the feeling of worry and anxiousness and love that makes the analogy—have I taught you enough? Have I prepared you for the assaults of the devil? Have I shown you the love that I feel for you and the fullness of God’s love for you? . . . Are you going to be okay without me?

It is this last question that borders on hubris, on a kind of self-idolatry as your pastor. Nay! It is not I that have done the teaching or the equipping, nor have I been the one to make sure you are “okay.” You will be okay—You ARE okay. As your pastor (and this is true with ALL pastors), I have been nothing more than God’s instrument to deliver to you His gifts—His Word and Sacraments. This is why pastors are sometimes call undershepherds, for we stand in the stead (or in the place) of our Good Shepherd, Christ, as His representative, as the temporal embodiment of the Great High Priest as He cares for you through our human mouths, hands, feet, and person.

You are Christ’s and it is He who has been teaching, equipping, and caring for you these past five years and will do so forever, just as He promised: “And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matt 28:20b).

All our love in Christ Jesus, +Pastor, Holly, Leo, & Sam

