



But immediately He spoke to them and said,
“Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.”

+ *Mark 6:50b, c*

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 25, 2021



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

God always cares for us but sometimes we fail to recognize it—to see the truth that God is love!

When the disciples saw Jesus still the storm that was hammering their boat, all they saw was His power to command earth and sea . . . and it terrified them! When the crowds saw Jesus, they recognized His power as a healer and brought the sick to Him . . . and they were healed.

God always cares. To Moses and all creation, He has forever set the rainbow is a reminder of His promise to never again flood the earth. Saint Paul prays that God’s love in Christ would fill us so that we might be able to grasp God’s all-encompassing love. Yes, in this earthly life there will be times of suffering but relying on God makes it bearable. Christ Jesus is with us—in His Holy Word, in Holy Baptism, and in the Sacrament of the Altar.

As our Hymn of the Day exhorts us to “Entrust your days and burdens to God’s most loving hand,” remember that this is not Law (though it can sound that way)—this is Gospel! It is God’s invitation and promise: He has made you and all creatures—the heavens and the earth—and still takes care of them (you especially!).

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s Phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor’s Email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION: Father Most Holy

LSB 504



1 Fa - ther most ho - ly, mer - ci - ful, and ten - der; Je - sus, our
2 Trin - i - ty bless - ed, u - ni - ty un - shak - en, Good - ness un -
3 Mak - er of all things, all Thy crea - tures praise Thee; All for Thy
△ 4 Lord God Al - might - y, un - to Thee be glo - ry, One in three



Sav - ior, with the Fa - ther reign - ing; Spir - it of com - fort,
bound - ed, ver - y God of heav - en, Light of the an - gels,
wor - ship were and are cre - at - ed; Now, as we al - so
per - sons, o - ver all ex - alt - ed! Glo - ry we of - fer,



ad - vo - cate, de - fend - er, Light nev - er wan - ing;
joy of those for - sak - en, Hope of all liv - ing,
wor - ship Thee de - vout - ly, Hear Thou our voic - es.
praise Thee and a - dore Thee, Now and for - ev - er.

Text 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 145:1–3, 6–7; antiphon: v. 5

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



(Antiphon) On the glorious splendor of Your | majesty,*
and on Your wondrous works, I will | meditate.

- 1 I will extol You, my | God and King,*
and bless Your name forever and | ever.
- 2 **Every day I will | bless you***
and praise Your name forever and | ever.
- 3 Great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised,*
and His greatness is un- | searchable.
- 6 **They shall speak of the might of Your | awesome deeds,***
and I will declare Your | greatness.
- 7 They shall pour forth the fame of Your abundant | goodness*
and shall sing aloud of Your | righteousness.

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.

G And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, the protector of all who trust in You, strengthen our faith and give us courage to believe that in Your love You will rescue us from all adversities; 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.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 9:8–17

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

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“Behold, I establish My covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹I establish My covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

¹²And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember My covenant that is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Romans 11:33, 36

The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.



Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowl- | edge of God!*

How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable | His ways!

For from Him and through Him and to Him are | all things.*

To Him be glory forever. | Amen.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 3:14–21

P The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter three.

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE

Mark 6:50c



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

Alleluia. Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid. Alleluia.

The alleluias are repeated.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 6:45-56

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

⁴⁵Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶And after He had taken leave of them, He went up on the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and He was alone on the land. ⁴⁸And He saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, ⁴⁹but when they saw Him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, ⁵⁰for they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke to them and said, **“Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”** ⁵¹And He got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, ⁵²for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. ⁵⁴And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized Him ⁵⁵and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard He was. ⁵⁶And wherever He came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored Him that they might touch even the fringe of His garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Entrust Your Days and Burdens



1 En - trust your days and bur - dens To God's most lov - ing
 2 Re - ly on God your Sav - ior And find your life se -
 3 Take heart, have hope, my spir - it, And do not be dis -
 4 Leave all to His di - rec - tion; His wis - dom rules for



hand; He cares for you while rul - ing The
 cure. Make His work your foun - da - tion That
 mayed; God helps in ev - 'ry tri - al And
 you In ways to rouse your won - der At



sky, the sea, the land. For He who guides the
 your work may en - dure. No anx - ious thought, no
 makes you un - a - fraid. A - wait His time with
 all His love can do. Soon He, His prom - ise



tem - pests A - long their thun - d'rous ways Will
 wor - ry, No self - tor - ment - ing care Can
 pa - tience Through dark - est hours of night Un -
 keep - ing, With won - der - work - ing pow'rs Will



find for you a path - way And guide you all your days.
 win your Fa - ther's fa - vor; His heart is moved by prayer.
 til the sun you hoped for De - lights your ea - ger sight.
 ban - ish from your spir - it What gave you trou - bled hours.

5 O blessèd heir of heaven, You'll hear the song resound Of endless jubilation When you with life are crowned. In your right hand your maker Will place the victor's palm, And you will thank Him gladly With heaven's joyful psalm.	6 Our hands and feet, Lord, strengthen; With joy our spirits bless Until we see the ending Of all our life's distress. And so throughout our lifetime Keep us within Your care And at our end then bring us To heav'n to praise You there.
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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

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** In great praise to Him who rules earth, sea, and sky, and in thanksgiving for the blessings of creation and life that come from His abundant goodness, that God would give us boldness to speak of His awesome deeds and sing always of His righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the Church, that our Lord, who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, would be glorified in His Church and in Christ Jesus; and that He would ground us in love, give us a faith rooted in Christ's promises, and strengthen us to comprehend with all the saints His love that surpasses knowledge, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** To the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that He would bless our families even as He blessed Noah, bringing forth new life under His promises; for all marriages, that He would make them strong and fruitful according to His will; and for every home, that God's Word would rule there, uniting it in forgiveness and causing Christ to dwell in every heart through faith, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For our nation, that the Lord of might would spare us and future generations from wickedness; for our leaders, that by God's blessing they would rule according to His good pleasure; and for God's protection over our armed forces, police, and all public servants, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the sick and those in any need of mind, body, or soul, that God would give healing and protection, encouraging them in this life by the recognition of His Fatherly providence known through Christ, our Savior, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all who commune, that God would not allow our hearts to become hardened by indifference or any frustration in this world, but that He would lead us to His blessed Sacrament with repentance and faith to receive the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, 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** Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

Stand

BENEDICTION

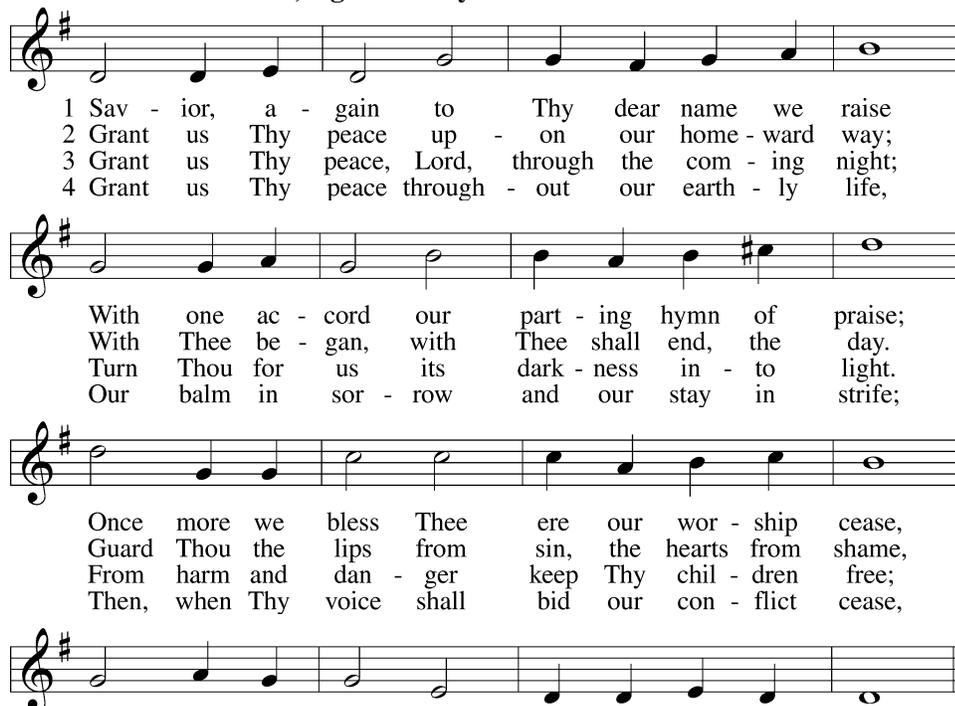
Numbers 6:24–26

- 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.**

The Divine Service continues with the Lord's Supper for those at the church. Please sing/read aloud the closing hymn. If you desire to receive Holy Communion, please text/call Pastor (he is usually at the church for a while on Sundays).

CLOSING HYMN: Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

LSB 917



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to Thy dear name we raise
2 Grant us Thy peace up - on our home - ward way;
3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
4 Grant us Thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,

With one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
With Thee be - gan, with Thee shall end, the day.
Turn Thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.
Our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife;

Once more we bless Thee ere our wor - ship cease,
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
From harm and dan - ger keep Thy chil - dren free;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,

Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait Thy word of peace.
That in this house have called up - on Thy name.
For dark and light are both a - like to Thee.
Call us, O Lord, to Thine e - ter - nal peace.

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

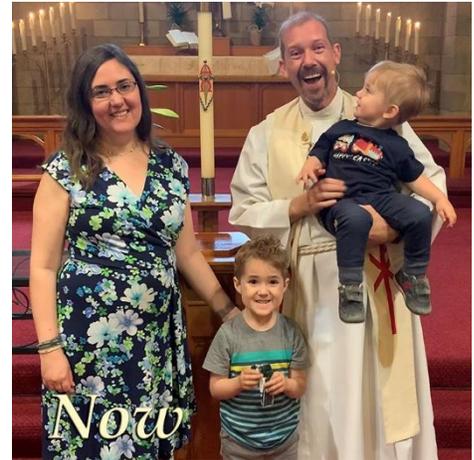
SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,



Five years ago, Holly and Leo and I sat in the pews at Grace for the very first time. Later that Sunday, I would be ordained and installed as your pastor. We were brand-new parents in a brand-new town at a brand-new church in a little rented condo—far removed from family and friends.

Fast-forward five years and we have TWO little boys (Sam and Loe), a beautiful house in the town we call home,



surrounded by our church family and friends! Not to mention the wild-ride of 2020, it's been an exciting five years!

Today's sermon focused on God's eternal care and love for all of His creation, especially His most important creation: YOU! Yes, I mean YOU in particular—because like all fathers, God can love all of His children “the most” . . . even if He has more than one or even more children than the stars in the heavens (Gen. 15:5). I remind you of this message because another truth is that God likes to upset the apple cart (at least as far as our limited understanding can tell because He always has a plan). Well, this is one of those times that God is upsetting the apple cart . . . and my stomach (I've been feeling all twisted-in-knots for the last couple of days).

This past week, God has delivered a Divine Call for me to serve as the Mission Advocate of KFYO Radio in Saint Louis, Missouri.

What does this mean? In brief, it means that our little family is going to have some sleepless nights and lots and lots of hours of prayer as we discern where the Holy Spirit is calling me to serve. I ask for your prayers—prayers for our church here in El Centro, prayers for KFYO Radio in Saint Louis, and prayers for me and Holly and Leo and Sam.

It is a time of uncertainty (this is most certainly true) but also an opportunity for us to place our fear, love, and trust fully in the Lord God Almighty, knowing that His will is always for our good.



In the midst of this discernment (when I find myself in the curious situation of holding TWO divine calls), God's ministry continues here at Grace. And that means that I really want you to join me for our **study of the Psalms every Tuesday at Noon on “Zoom.”** This week we'll be **studying Psalm 50**. Please call-in or hop on your computer on Tuesday. I love to see/hear you. And then tune-in or come by the church for our **short prayer service on Wednesday night at 7:00pm.**

- 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”

Also, this afternoon is our next Congregation Meeting on Zoom at 4:00pm (same links/phone numbers as our Tuesday Bible Study). I look forward to a chance to catch up as we address the work God has given us to do.

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church's post office box: Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw