

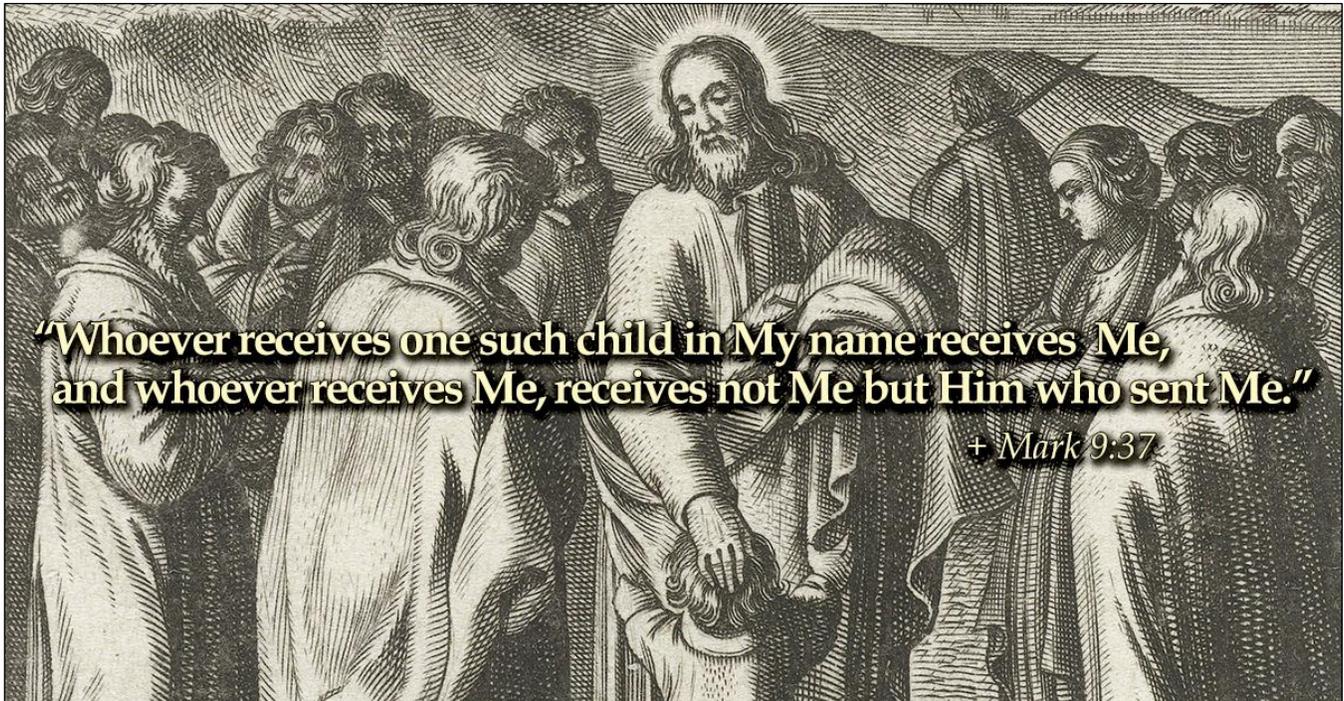


If anyone would be first,
he must be last of all and servant of all.

+ *Mark 9:35b*

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 19, 2021



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus’ disciples did not understand the prophecy about His death and resurrection. They focused, instead, on personal greatness. Since the disciples kept silent about their argument about greatness and knowing their hearts, Jesus inverts their viewpoint, using a child to explain that true greatness is in humble servanthood, in welcoming all people, even children (who at that time and place were without any social status).

But our inner passions rebel and war against such servanthood, as Saint James explains in the Epistle. Fortunately, by the gracious gift of faith, we can rely on God in place of personal struggles, just as Jeremiah does in the Old Testament Reading.

Our Lord is the humblest and therefore greatest Servant. By His death and resurrection, He has proclaimed that God’s grace knows no bounds. Confidently, we follow Him as the Spirit calls us to humble servanthood.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s Phone: 760-679-3699

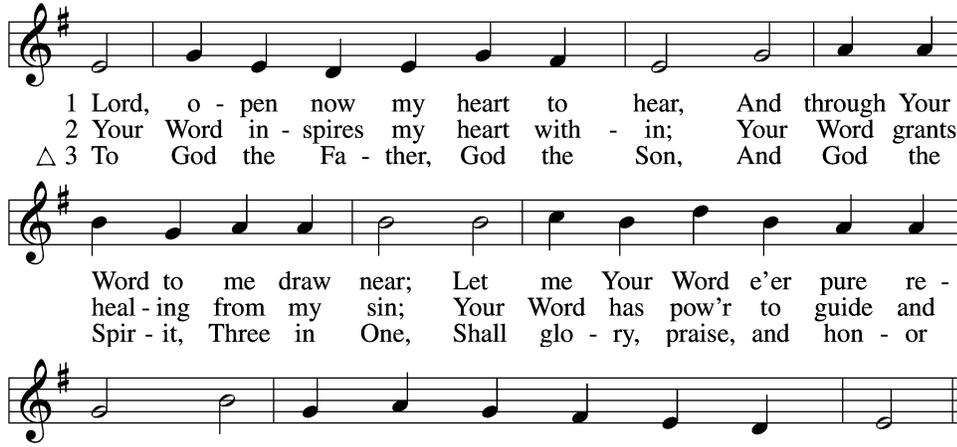
Pastor’s Email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

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.

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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.

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 37:5-7; antiphon: v. 4

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



(Antiphon) Delight yourself | in the LORD,*
and He will give you the desires | of your heart.

5 Commit your way | to the LORD;*
trust in Him, and | He will act.

6 He will bring forth your righteousness | as the light,*
and your justice as the | noonday.

7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently | for Him;*
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil de- | vices!

**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

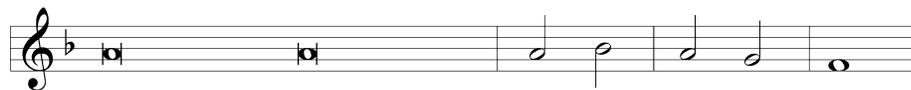
Luke 2:14; John 1:29



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.



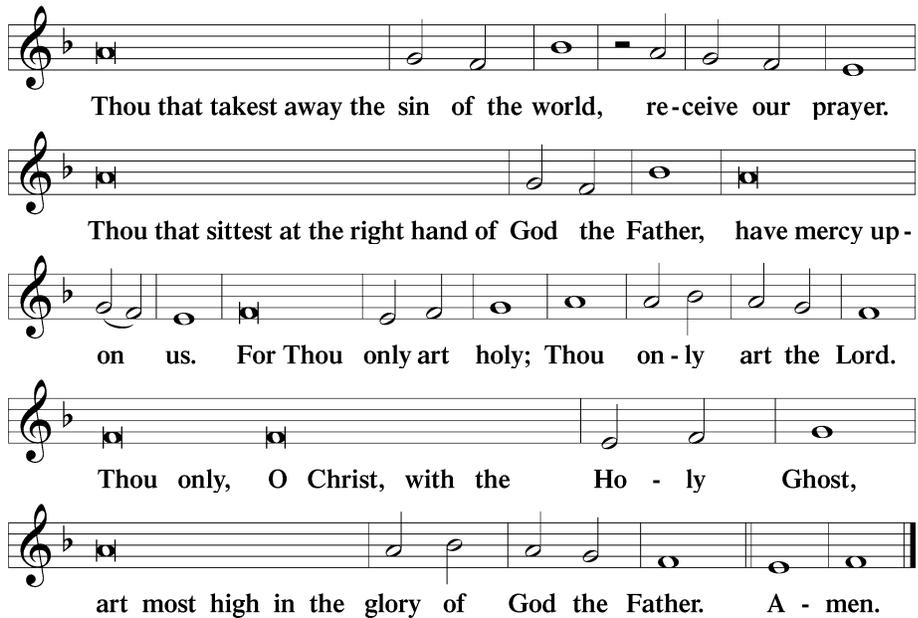
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



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.

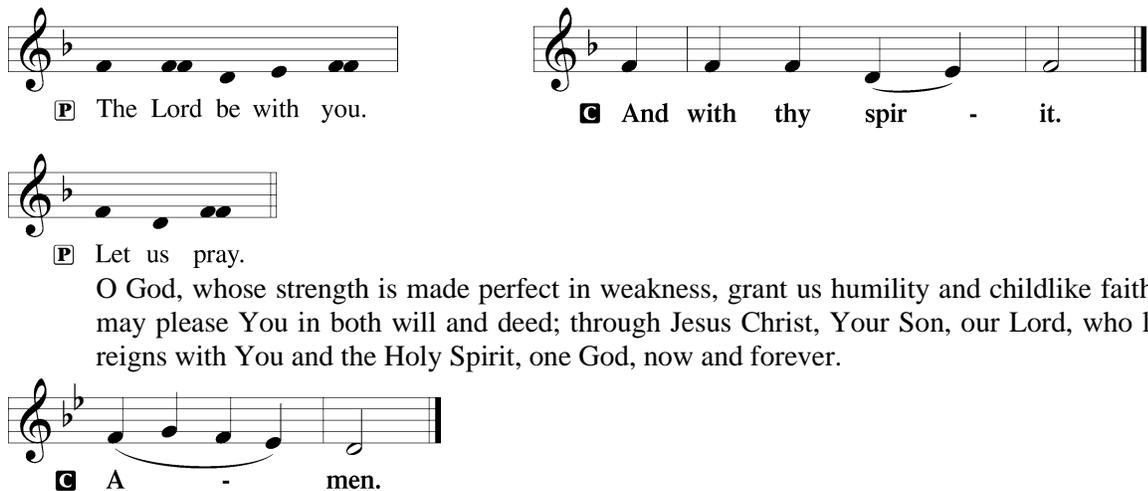
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

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.
O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed; 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

Jeremiah 11:18-20

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

¹⁸The LORD made it known to me and I knew; then You showed me their deeds. ¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it was against me they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more."

²⁰But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind, let me see Your vengeance upon them, for to You have I committed my cause.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalms 34:9, 19, alt.

The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.



Fear the LORD, | you His saints,*
for those who fear Him lack | nothing!
 Many are the afflictions of the | righteous.*
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

P The Epistle is from James, chapters three and four.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

^{4:1}What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the Spirit that He has made to dwell in us”? ⁶But He gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE

Mark 9:35b



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

Alleluia. If anyone would be first,
he must be last of all and servant of all. Alleluia.

The alleluias are repeated.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:30–37

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁰[The disciples] went on from there and passed through Galilee. And [Jesus] did not want anyone to know, ³¹for He was teaching His disciples, saying to them, “**The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And when He is killed, after three days He will rise.**” ³²But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask Him.

³³And they came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, “**What were you discussing on the way?**” ³⁴But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵And He sat down and called the twelve. And He said to them, “**If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.**” ³⁶And He took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them, ³⁷“**Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.**”

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: Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

LSB 851

1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,
 3 Won - drous hon - or You have giv - en To our
 4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your

life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the
 free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your
 hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te - rious
 life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the

lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
 sen - tence, "You have done it all to Me."
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.

And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You
 Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to

count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful
 You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py
 deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your
 stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of

and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you?"
 all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

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 humility, that God—who opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble—would help us to submit to Him and resist the devil, that he would flee from us, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For our Synod’s leaders, especially Matthew and Mike, and all pastors, that the Lord would give them the wisdom that comes down from above, making them peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere; and that they would sow among us in peace, yielding a harvest of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** That the Holy Spirit would pacify our passions, and that we would not be ruled by the jealousy and selfish ambition that give rise to disorder and every vile practice, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** That the Lord would uphold this world in His order; for the Church, that she would be defended from all enemies; for our homes, that the Lord would bless parents and children in service toward each other and faith until life’s end; and for the government, that God would grant all authorities health and wisdom, especially we pray for Joseph and Gavin and Cheryl; let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the sick and those in any need of mind body or soul, especially Ollie Grams who is now in hospice and all those we mention in the silence of our hearts; let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the family and friends of Cheryl Beyer who was laid to rest in the joyful hope of the Resurrection yesterday, that the Lord uphold them in His peace and strengthen their faith, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who draw near to the altar today to receive the blessed Sacrament of Christ’s true body and most precious blood, that in repentance, with cleansed hands and purified hearts, we may receive Him in true faith and in the peaceable unity of confession, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who 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

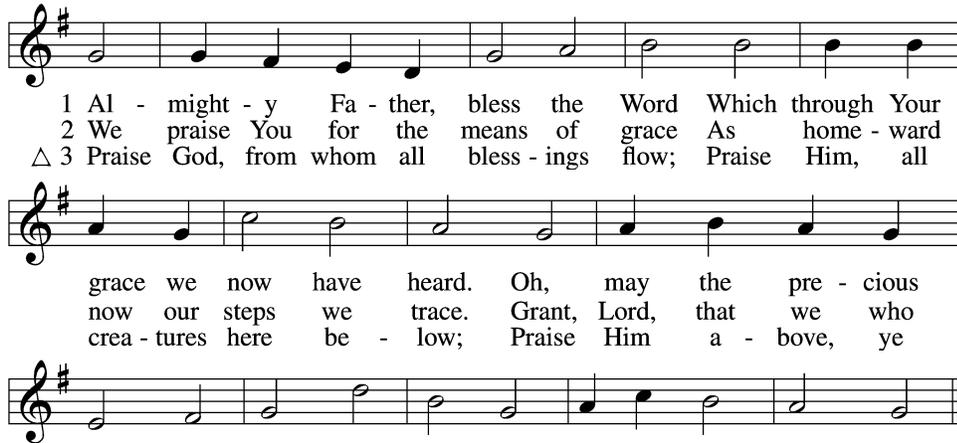
P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and **✠** give you peace.

C Amen.

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: 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
△ 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,

Guess who just turned two years old! Sammy!!!

It all happened so fast—him getting so big! One moment he was our cherubic newborn and then in the “twinkling of an eye” (to borrow the phrase from 1 Cor 15:52) he’s a little boy!

Sam had a great birthday and Leo was so excited to help him celebrate! Leo opened up his room for free-access to Sam (usually, access to Leo’s room is something of a VIP affair). The two of danced and chased and tossed balloons together for the better part of the day!

Then, when Sam went down for his nap, Leo and Mom went to Vons to pick up loads of fruits and veggies for Sam’s Birthday Dinner. **Leo picked out the birthday cake for Sam** (he was adamant with Mom that this was “the cake”). And since we didn’t get around to EATING the cake on Friday (playing with the new toys took precedence, don’t ya know), we’ll be sharing it with our church family at Sam’s birthday party after church! (Pay no mind to the two large chunks of missing frosting . . . that was the “Leo Tax” for curating the cake. LOL)



That night, as Holly and I did a little cleanup after getting the kids in bed, we realized that Sam’s birthday party was the last big family event that we’ll have in our El Centro home! Golly! **We have had a lot of great times here!**



And now our house—our HOME—is officially “on the market” (and it feels WEIRD!). I need to say a special thank you to John and Diane Lemon for helping me fix our bathroom (in truth, I wasn’t much help). They finished all the plastering (or was it “mudding” . . . John knows better than I) and painting to make it look AMAZING for pictures! Thank you so much!

So . . . if you’re looking to move a little closer to Grace and want a recently renovated home that has been filled with LOADS of love, give my realtor a call! <kidding . . . kinda>

Also, please join me for our **study of the Psalms on “Zoom” every Tuesday at Noon**. This week we’ll be **studying Psalm 57**. And please tune-in or come by the church for our **7:00pm Prayer Service on Wednesday**.

- 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”

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