

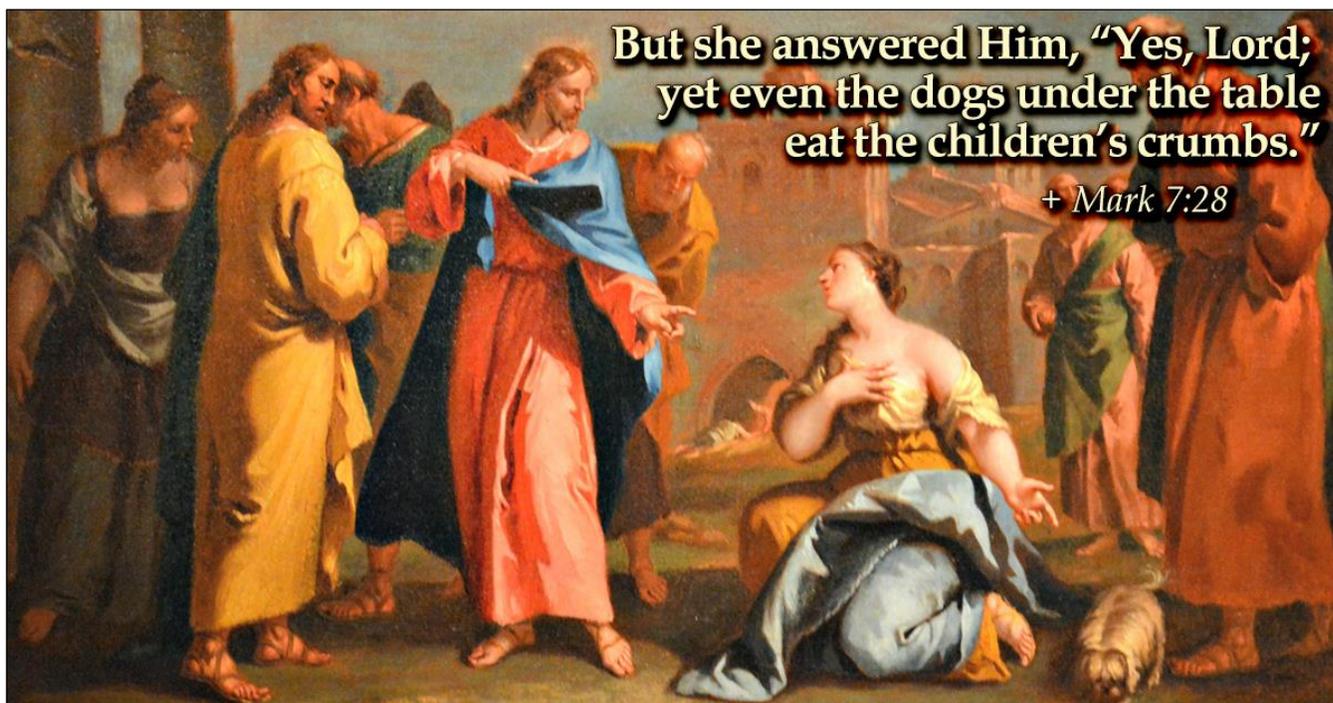


The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
He gathers the outcasts of Israel.  
He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

+ Psalm 147:2–3

**THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

September 5, 2021



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Lord Hears his children as they cry for mercy. As He is our strong rock, we boldly confess with thanksgiving that His help is ever at hand (*Introit*). We humbly and expectantly lift our needs before Him, praying only that our petitions for mercy be answered “in accord with [His] gracious will” (*Collect*). God’s decisive action in His love toward humanity—the Father sending His Son, our Savior, into the world in humility and lowliness for us poor sinners—brings us His strength and a soothing balm to our anxious hearts and suffering bodies (*Old Testament*).

Saint James admonishes our Old Adam not to withhold mercy from anyone by showing partiality toward those with wealth, fame, and success at the expense of those who are downtrodden or impoverished. Instead, James reminds us that a living, saving faith in Christ will inevitably overflow with His good works (*Epistle*).

Christ, of course, is the icon of God’s grace in love and mercy. What man could never achieve, God has done for fallen humanity in Jesus: “Since mortals can no help afford, Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord. Alleluia!” (*Hymn of the Day*). Redeemed by Him, Christ powerfully works in and through us as we live out our daily vocations. Let us serve the Lord with gladness.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s Phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor’s Email: [pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org](mailto:pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org)

## ✠ 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 28:1-2, 6-7; antiphon: v. 8*

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



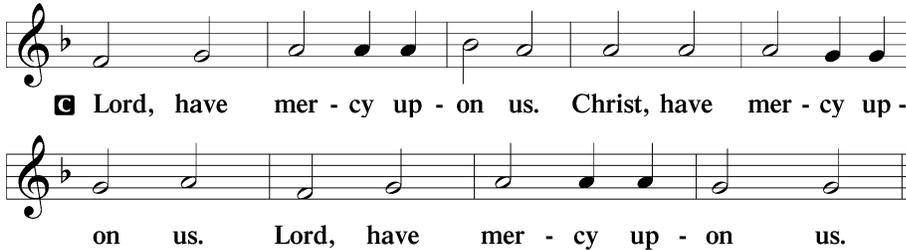
*(Antiphon)* The LORD is the strength of His | people;\*  
He is the saving refuge of His a- | nointed.

- 1 To You, O LORD, I call; my Rock, be not | deaf to me,\*  
lest, if You be silent to me, I become like those who go down | to the pit.
  - 2 **Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to | You for help,\***  
**when I lift up my hands toward Your most holy sanctu- | ary.**
  - 6 Blessèd | be the LORD!\*
  - For He has heard the voice of my pleas for | mercy.
  - 7 **The LORD is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and | I am helped;\***  
**my heart exults, and with my song I give | thanks to Him.**
- 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.*

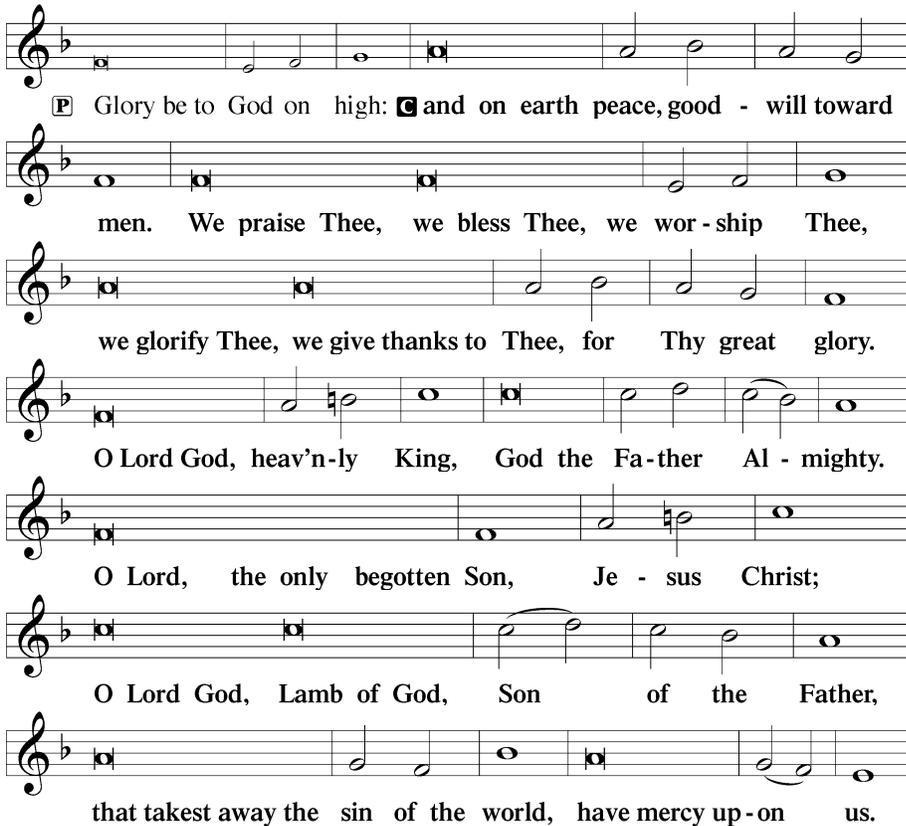
### KYRIE

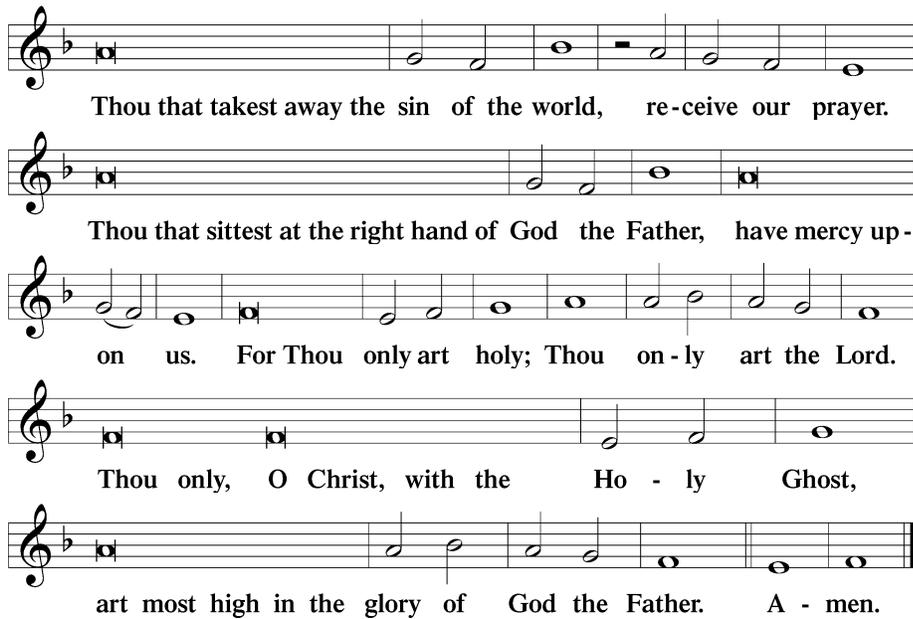
*Mark 10:47*



### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*





Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

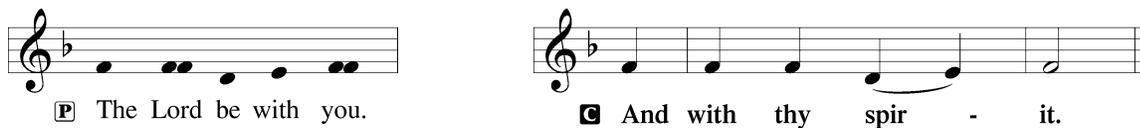
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.

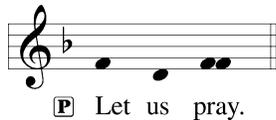
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

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

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

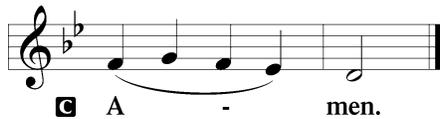


**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with Your gracious will; 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**

*Isaiah 35:4-7a*

**P** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 35.

- <sup>4</sup> Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
 “Be strong; fear not!  
 Behold, your God  
 will come with vengeance,  
 with the recompense of God.  
 He will come and save you.”
- <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
- <sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
 and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
 For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
 and streams in the desert;
- <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool,  
 and the thirsty ground springs of water.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

*Psalm 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.**

## EPISTLE

*James 2:1–10, 14–18*

**P** The Epistle is from James, chapter two.

<sup>1</sup>My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. <sup>2</sup>For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” <sup>4</sup>have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which He has promised to those who love Him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

<sup>8</sup>If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. . . .

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup>So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. <sup>18</sup>But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA & VERSE

*Psalm 147:2–3*



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

Alleluia. The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Alleluia. *The alleluias are repeated.*

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Mark 7:24–37*

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



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>24</sup>From there He arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And He entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet He could not be hidden. <sup>25</sup>But immediately a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard of Him and came and fell down at His feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>And He said to her, “**Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.**” <sup>28</sup>But she answered Him, “Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” <sup>29</sup>And He said to her, “**For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.**” <sup>30</sup>And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then He returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>And they brought to Him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged Him to lay His hand on him. <sup>33</sup>And taking him aside from the crowd privately, He put His fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>And looking up to heaven, He sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup>And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more He charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

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

*Sit*

HYMN OF THE DAY: Praise the Almighty

LSB 797



1 Praise the Al - might - y, my soul, a - dore Him!  
 2 Trust not in rul - ers; they are but mor - tal;  
 3 Bless - ed, oh, bless - ed are they for - ev - er  
 4 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,  
 △ 5 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Yes, I will laud Him un - til death; With songs and  
 Earth - born they are and soon de - cay. Vain are their  
 Whose help is from the Lord Most High, Whom from sal -  
 Par - don and peace from Him ob - tain; Ev - er the  
 Of Him who does such won - drous things! All that has



an - thems I come be - fore Him As long as  
 coun - sels at life's last por - tal, When the dark  
 va - tion can noth - ing sev - er, And who in  
 wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, Their faith - ful  
 be - ing, to praise Him sole - ly, With hap - py



He al - lows me breath. From Him my life and  
 grave en - gulfs its prey. Since mor - tals can no  
 hope to Christ draw nigh. To all who trust in  
 God He will re - main. He helps His chil - dren  
 heart its a - men sings. Chil - dren of God, with



all things came; Bless, O my soul, His ho - ly name.  
 help af - ford, Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.  
 Him, our Lord Will aid and coun - sel now af - ford.  
 in dis - tress, The wid - ows and the fa - ther - less.  
 an - gel host Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, 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.

Philippians 4:7

**C** Amen.

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 thanksgiving for Holy Baptism, by which God has made waters break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert of this world; and that He would open our eyes to new life in Christ and our ears to hear His Word, free us to walk uprightly, and loose our tongues in praise, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** That God would preserve us from judgment with evil thoughts, especially from showing partiality and making distinctions among ourselves; and that He would make us rich in good works as we hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For a lively faith in Christ Jesus, that we be fruitful and active in all good works, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For parents, that they raise up their children to know Christ as their help and hope, and put not their trust in princes in whom there is no salvation, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For Joseph and all rulers, that the Lord God, in whom alone we place all our hope, would bless our earthly rulers, order their plans for the welfare of the governed, and execute His justice for the oppressed, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all who suffer an illness of mind, body, or soul, or are in any need, that the Lord strengthen them in their time of trial and deliver them according to His gracious will, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all who commune this day, that they would receive Christ's true body and most precious blood in repentance and faith for the forgiveness of sins and in the unity of the true 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.

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

## SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

We have been hard at work getting things ready for the move to Saint Louis. One major milestone has been getting an estimated move-out date from the moving companies. As it stands, that will be sometime the week of either October 10 or 17. With that in mind and so as not to leave Grace in a type of limbo (theological pun intended), **I believe it best to conclude my service at Grace as of Sunday, October 3, 2021.**

I have written to our church leadership to encourage them to contact our District Office and Circuit Visitor to help plan the next steps for Grace, and for one of the flock to step forward to begin scheduling and leading Congregational Meetings as you look to what God has in store for His people in El Centro. God has a plan for all of you! Never doubt that! You are not left as orphans—Jesus promised to be with you always, to the end of the age!

Now, let me tell you about the action-packed week her at home!

**We finally brought in electricians to fix the electrical short** that manifested after the air conditioning repair last September. Yeah, we've been without power to the main bathroom and the outlets in the kids' bedrooms for about a year.

We would have fixed it sooner except I came up with a patch that worked! I ran an extension cord along the floorboards from the guest room to power the sound machines for Leo and Sam so we didn't really NEED the outlets . . . at least not until we are getting ready to sell the house (who wants to buy a house with an electrical short, right?).

Now, I figured the fix would take a little work—somewhere along the lines of making a big hole in Leo's wall and patching the wiring (with plaster and concrete walls, that wasn't going to be super-easy). Turns out that the short was in the wiring that ran UNDER the concrete foundation! Oy! So . . . the electricians ran power all the way around the side of the house and brought it in from outside. It wasn't a big deal for the bedrooms but our bathroom had some pretty expensive rewiring (check out the picture).



Amidst all this, we've done the video walkthroughs for the moving companies to give us bids. They do all this through a video-chat on your cellphone and ask you to measure a few things here and there. Seamless and quick! Of course, we also got an estimated move-out date—either October 10 or 17. So that also means we hope to have our house sold BEFORE October 10. This means we need to get some property pictures taken and that means we need to pack up some of the extra stuff and get the home ready to show! EEEK! (Have I mentioned I hate moving?)



Yes, we've been busy but we still make time to have some fun at home. Sam and I played in the "ball pit" that Leo made for him (it's a pop-up play tent that Leo packed with every bouncy ball in our house—Sam LOVES it!). And Leo has been getting creative with towers of blocks (this one was almost as tall as him!).

In the time that we have left together, please join me for our **study of the Psalms on "Zoom" every Tuesday at Noon**. This week we'll be **studying Psalm 55**. 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, 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