



Whoever would save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

+ *Matthew 16:25*

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 30, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Some voices in our world today claim that good needs evil in order to help what is right truly express itself. The Bible takes a different view, giving us God’s own perspective on good and evil: that which is truly virtuous doesn’t depend on evil; no, quite the opposite, that which is good—God and His love in Jesus Christ—actively dispels evil at the cross.

By His resurrection from death’s grave, Jesus crushes evil and guarantees that it has no power over those who trust in Him. Remaining in Christ’s love, we respond to the evil in our world, even the evil that comes directly at us through the wrongdoings of our enemies, with the goodness of forgiveness. Instead of retaliating against evil ourselves, we allow our good and gracious God to respond to it, and overcome it, in our loving Savior. Amen.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor’s email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✠ MATINS ✠

OPENING HYMN: To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All

LSB 613



1 To Thee, om - ni - scient Lord of all, In grief and shame I
2 O Lord, my God, to Thee I pray: O cast me not in
3 O Je - sus, let Thy pre - cious blood Be to my soul a



hum - bly call; I see my sins a - gainst Thee, Lord,
wrath a - way! Let Thy good Spir - it ne'er de - part,
cleans - ing flood. Turn not, O Lord, Thy guest a - way,



The sins of thought and deed and word. They press me
But let Him draw to Thee my heart That tru - ly
But grant that jus - ti - fied I may Go to my



sore; I cry to Thee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
pen - i - tent I be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
house at peace with Thee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

OPENING VERSICLES

Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1

L O Lord, o - pen my lips,
C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.

C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.
 Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

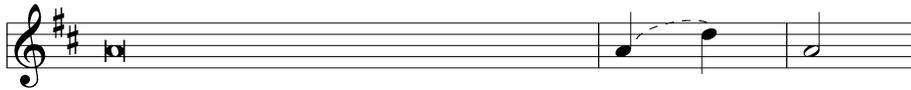
PSALMODY

L The Lord has sanc - ti - fied us in the true faith.
C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

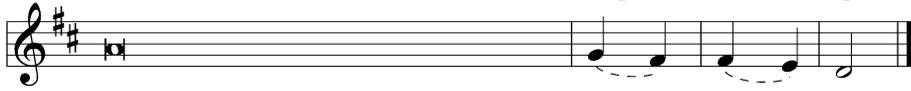
Venite

Psalm 95: 1-7

C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
 2 For the Lord is a great God
 3 The sea is His, for He made it,
 5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son
 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
 3 and His hand formed the dry land.
 5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
 3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
 4 For He is our God,
 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
 2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
 3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
 5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



L The Lord has sanc - ti - fied us in the true faith.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Sit

OFFICE HYMN: Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus

LSB 531



1 Hail, Thou once de - spis - ed Je - sus! Hail, Thou Gal - i -
 2 Pas - chal Lamb, by God ap - point - ed, All our sins on
 3 Je - sus, hail! En - throned in glo - ry, There for - ev - er
 4 Wor - ship, hon - or, pow'r, and bless - ing Thou art wor - thy



le - an King! Thou didst suf - fer to re - lease us; Thou didst
 Thee were laid; By al - might - y love a - noint - ed, Thou hast
 to a - bide; All the heav'n - ly hosts a - dore Thee, Seat - ed
 to re - ceive; High - est prais - es, with - out ceas - ing, Right it



free sal - va - tion bring. Hail, Thou u - ni - ver - sal Sav - ior,
 full a - tone - ment made. All Thy peo - ple are for - giv - en
 at Thy Fa - ther's side. There for sin - ners Thou art plead - ing;
 is for us to give. Help, ye bright an - gel - ic spir - its,



Bear - er of our sin and shame! By Thy mer - it
 Through the vir - tue of Thy blood; O - pened is the
 There Thou dost our place pre - pare, Ev - er for us
 All your no - blest an - thems raise; Help to sing our



we find fa - vor: Life is giv - en through Thy name.
 gate of heav - en, Rec - on - ciled are we with God.
 in - ter - ced - ing Till in glo - ry we ap - pear.
 Sav - ior's mer - its, Help to chant Im - man - uel's praise!

Text and tune: Public domain

READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 15:15–21

P The Old Testament Reading is from Jeremiah, chapter 15.

¹⁵O LORD, You know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In Your forbearance take me not away; know that for Your sake I bear reproach. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by Your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because Your hand was upon me, for You had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will You be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail?

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: “If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before Me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as My mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 12:9–21

P The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 12.

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE



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

Matthew 16:25

Alleluia. Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. Alleluia.



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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²¹From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord! This shall never happen to You." ²³But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a hindrance to Me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

²⁴Then Jesus told His disciples, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with His angels in the glory of His Father, and then He will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

RESPONSORY

Psalm 119:89; 26:8; Luke 11:28



L 1 Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
2 Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
3 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.



G Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glo-ry dwells.

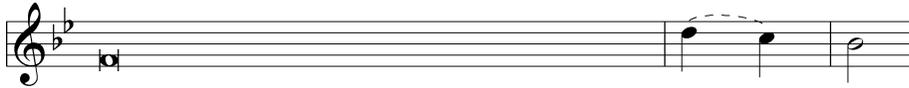
Sit

SERMON

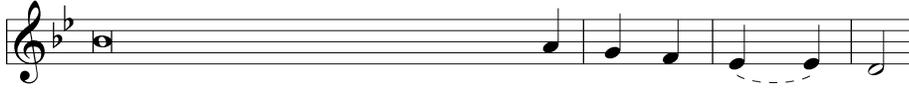
Rev. Griebenaw

CANTICLE

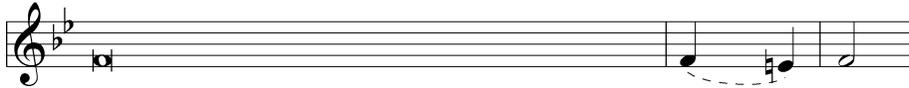
TE DEUM: We Praise You, O God



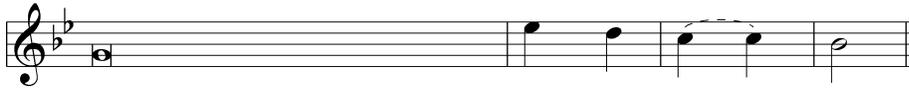
1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs praise You.



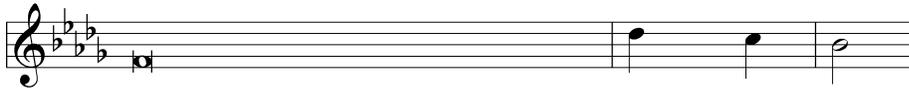
1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



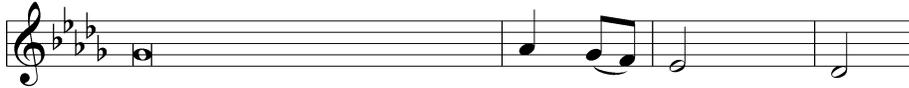
1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
2 The glorious company of the apostles praise You.
3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
4 You are the king of glory, O Christ;



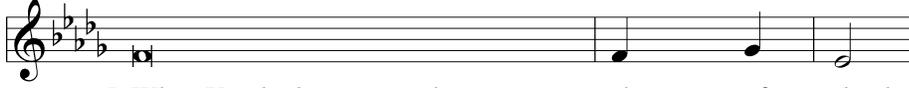
1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise You.
3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



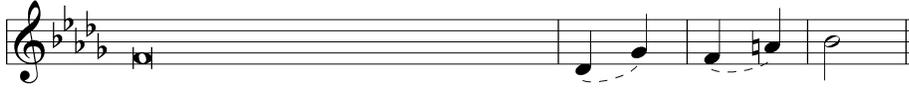
5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
6 We believe that You will come



5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.



7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,
8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out sin.



7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.
8 Govern them and lift them up for - ev - er.
9 O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy up - on us.

7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints
 8 Day by day we magni - fy You.
 9 O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.

7 in glory ev - er - last - ing.
 8 And we worship Your name for - ever and ev - er.
 9 O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be con - found - ed.

PRAYER

Kneel (or remain standing)

KYRIE

Mark 10:47

☐ Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal-low - ed be Thy name,
 Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as
 it is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly
 bread; and for-give us our tres-pass - es as we for-give
 those who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in -
 to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.
 For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo -
 ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

COLLECTS



P The Lord be with you.



C And with your spir - it.

Collect of the Day

P Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Collect for Obedience to the Word

P O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



C A - men.

Additional collects may be prayed following the same form and response. The prayers conclude with the Collect for Grace.

Collect for Grace

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous 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.

Stand

BENEDICAMUS

Psalm 103:1



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14

P The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.

C A - - men.

CLOSING HYMN: Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

LSB 706

1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, Bind - ing faith - ful
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, Clothed in Christ's hu -
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, Faint - ing not when

hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giv - ing.
mil - i - ty, Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
ills at - tend; Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,

May His will in us be done.
Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.
Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

I remember hearing how Sally Field had to go through several costuming changes during the filming of “The Flying Nun.” As her wardrobe wore out, new outfits had to be made. Simply put, the producers didn’t want her to have any bad habits. <wink-wink>

All kidding aside, I have a bad habit. To be honest, I have several (don’t we all?) but one has plagued me since youth—I am a nail biter!

Whenever I get stressed, I “go to town” on my nails, chewing so far as to reach the nail bed (with the commensurate bleeding to follow). I do my very best NOT to do this, especially since y’all get to see my fingers up-close during Holy Communion (lest my bad habit deter you from desiring our Lord’s body and blood).

Bad habits are hard to break! If only the same could be said of good habits, right? How often have we found the good habits/customs that we do falling away quickly once we break stride? Think back to those New Year resolutions we make each year . . . they seem to last a few weeks, but once we stop, the habit is broken!

In quite the opposite manner, bad habits seem to cling to us, resurfacing over and over again, no matter how long it has been since we practiced them. I cannot help but think how this demonstrates the evilness of our hearts and the strength of our flesh’s temptations.

In the midst of this pandemic and the shelter-at-home-orders, one very good habit has been taking a beating: faithful church attendance. The Third Commandment tell us to “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy” meaning “We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.”

All things being equal, we should always desire to be in church—we should WANT to be in church and surrounded by our Christian family as we are bathed in God’s Holy Word. But what of those times in our lives when we DON’T WANT to be in church? Maybe we have been hurt (emotionally or physically) and we are angry with God? What if we have grown disappointed or disillusioned? What if we feel our faith waning?

The great irony is that those times when we DON’T WANT to go to church are the very times when WE NEED God’s Word more than ever! And that is where the GOOD HABIT of church attendance can save our lives, driving us to the source of HEALING AND LIFE when our hearts have been injured.

I encourage you to work to develop this good habit (though in a virtual setting for now), especially during this pandemic when God has removed some of life’s temptations and busyness that formerly lured us away from church. So please join me in our **Study of the Psalms** on “Zoom” **every Tuesday at Noon (ending by 1:00pm)**. We socialize for the first 15 minutes and work through the psalm from 12:15pm to 12:45pm, concluding by 1:00pm. This week we study Psalm 19. **Please do join me.**

- 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#

And tune-in to Facebook **each Wednesday night at 7:00pm** for a short (30-minute) **service of prayer and meditation** on the psalm. The service folder will be on our website (www.GraceLutheranElCentro.org) and the live-stream will be on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranElCentro).

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church’s post office box:

Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530.



Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebenaw