

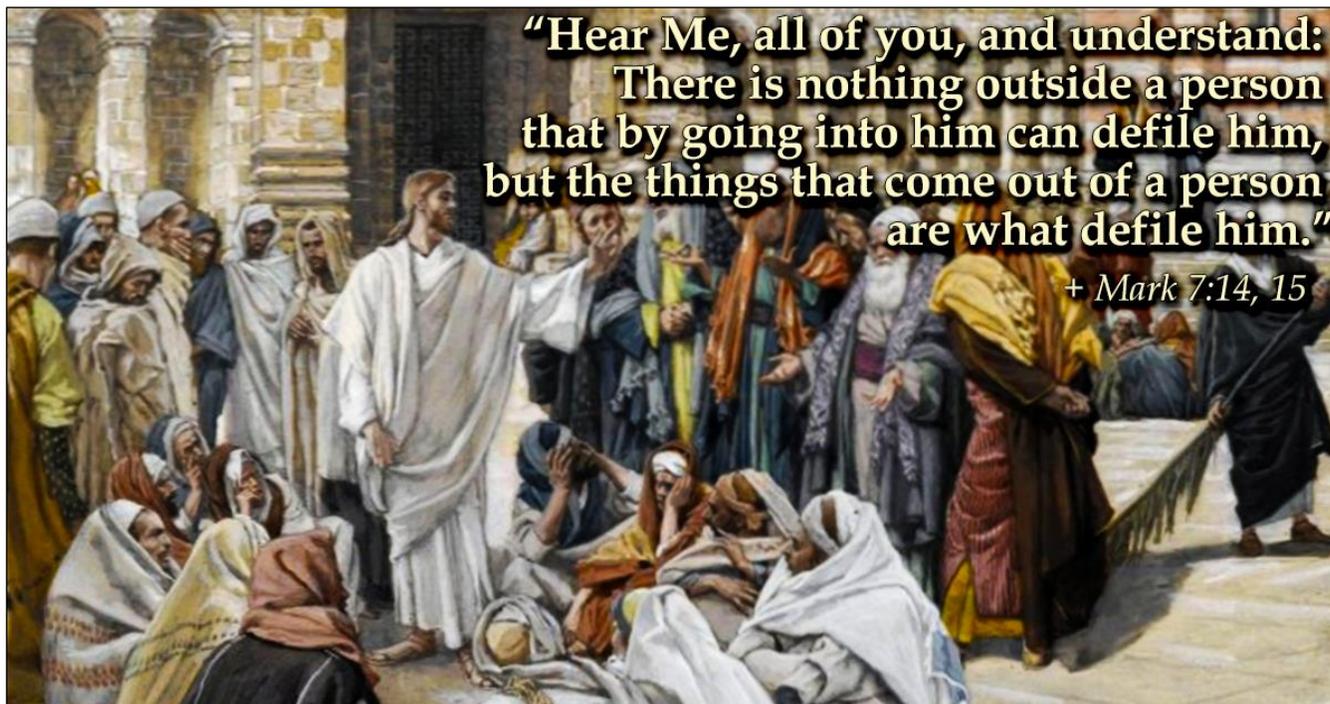


“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

+ *Matthew 5:8*

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 29, 2021



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It has been said, “The Church is never more than one generation away from extinction.” This bold statement finds support in the admonition found in today’s Old Testament Reading. There Moses writes this concerning the works of the Lord, “Make them known to your children and your children’s children” (Deuteronomy 4:9).

Each generation has the responsibility, privilege, and joy of passing on the works of God to the next generation. Sadly, much of this teaching has been left to the congregation—the Church indeed does much teaching but is not to be the only time and place; the Christian home, your own family, is to be the place for daily instruction and meditation on the Word and works of God.

This teaching is always centered in Jesus Christ, the one through whom our Lord has worked the mightiest work of all—our salvation. That same Savior promises that even the gates of hell will not prevail against His Church and, as Saint Paul reminds us, “You are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27).

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: Only-Begotten, Word of God Eternal

LSB 916



1 On - ly - be - got - ten, Word of God e - ter - nal, Lord of cre -
2 Ho - ly this tem - ple where our Lord is dwell - ing; This is none
3 Hear us, O Fa - ther, as we throng Your tem - ple. By Your past
△ 4 God in three per - sons, Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, Son co - e -



a - tion, mer - ci - ful and might - y: Hear us, Your ser - vants,
oth - er than the gate of heav - en. Ev - er Your chil - dren,
bless - ings, by Your pres - ent boun - ty, Smile on Your chil - dren,
ter - nal, ev - er bless - ed Spir - it: To You be prais - es,



as our tune - ful voic - es Rise in Your pres - ence.
year by year re - joic - ing, Chant in Your tem - ple.
and in grace and mer - cy Hear our pe - ti - tion.
thanks, and ad - o - ra - tion, Glo - ry 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

Psalms 51:7, 10–12; antiphon: v. 2

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



(Antiphon) Wash me thoroughly from in-iquity,*
And cleanse me | from my sin!

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;*
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.

10 **Create in me a clean heart, | O God,***
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.

11 Cast me not away from Your | presence,*
and take not Your Holy Spirit | from me.

12 **Restore to me the joy of Your sal- | vation,***
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.

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,



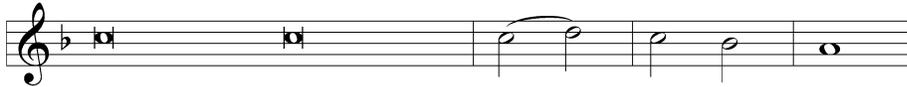
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



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



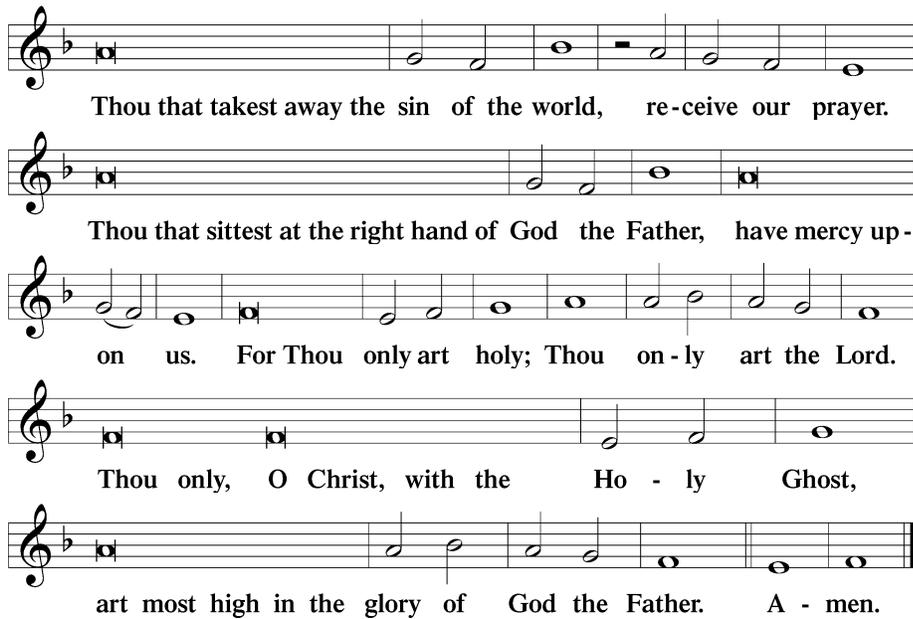
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



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.

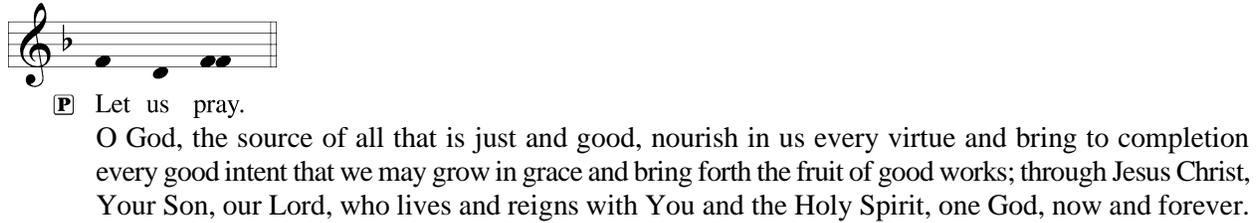
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

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, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; 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

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

P The Old Testament Reading is from Deuteronomy, chapter four.

¹“Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the just decrees that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.
²You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you. . . .

⁶Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’

⁷For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon Him? ⁸And what great nation is there, that has statutes and just decrees so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

⁹“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children.”

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

Ephesians 6:10–20

P The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter six.

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE

Matthew 5:8



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

Alleluia. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Alleluia.

The alleluias are repeated.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 7:14–23

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁴He called the people to Him again and said to them, “**Hear Me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.**” ¹⁷And when He had entered the house and left the people, His disciples asked Him about the parable. ¹⁸And He said to them, “**Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?**” (Thus He declared all foods clean.) ²⁰And He said, “**What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.**”

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: Renew Me, O Eternal Light

LSB 704

1 Re - new me, O e - ter - nal Light, And let my
 2 Re - move the pow'r of sin from me And cleanse all
 3 Cre - ate in me a new heart, Lord, That glad - ly
 4 Grant that I on - ly You may love And seek those

heart and soul be bright, Il - lu - mined with the
 my im - pu - ri - ty That I may have the
 I o - bey Your Word. Let what You will be
 things which are a - bove Till I be - hold You

light of grace That is - sues from Your ho - ly face.
 strength and will Temp - ta - tions of the flesh to still.
 my de - sire, And with new life my soul in - spire.
 face to face, O Light e - ter - nal, through Your grace.

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 the gift of the Holy Spirit at work in the Word of truth, that by His direction we would not stray from the way of God’s commandments nor forget the blessings He has given, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the full armor of God, that, clothed in truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation, and by the sword of the Spirit, which is His Word, God protect us from every assault of the devil, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For protection against everything that defiles heart and soul; to keep us from all evil thoughts, immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness; and to create a pure heart and renew a right spirit in us, that we may be holy as He is holy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For those who struggle with doubt and temptation, that God would assure and deliver them, showing Himself a refuge for the powerless and strength for every weakness, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all in need of health, healing and mercy, that the Lord of life would strengthen them with His Word of grace to look to Him for comfort in the midst of suffering and pain, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all who commune this day, remembering with thanksgiving the salvation accomplished by the cross of Christ, that we may proclaim His death and resurrection with joy as we receive His true body and most precious blood in this Holy Sacrament for the forgiveness of our sins, 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 Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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: Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

LSB 918

1 Guide me, O Thou great Re-deem-er, Pil-grim through this
2 O-pen now the crys-tal foun-tain Whence the heal-ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor-dan, Bid my anx-ious
bar-ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might-y;
stream doth flow; Let the fi-ery, cloud-y pil-lar
fears sub-side; Death of death and hell's de-struc-tion,
Hold me with Thy pow'r-ful hand. Bread of heav-en,
Lead me all my jour-ney through. Strong de-liv-'rer,
Land me safe on Ca-naan's side. Songs of prais-es,
bread of heav-en, Feed me till I want no
strong de-liv-'rer, Be Thou still my strength and
songs of prais-es I will ev-er give to
more; shield; Thee; Feed me till I will ev-er give to Thee.

Text and tune: Public Domain

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

More often than not, I craft my “final thoughts” on Saturday evening—usually after I’ve finished putting the final touches on the service folder and my sermon. In fact, this little letter began as a place to talk about things from the Bible readings that I wanted to cover but couldn’t quite fit into the sermon (I remember a few were even like a short “Sermon 2.0”). As of late, I’ve been reflecting on my time in El Centro and on the new journey that awaits.

Looking back on this week and the myriad events taking place in the world—the evacuation in Afghanistan, the attack that killed our servicemen and so many Afghan civilians, and the hurricane approaching our Gulf states. It just feels like the whole world is burning and the only fitting reply is “Kyrie, Eleison! (Lord, have mercy!)” How fitting that our epistle for today is from Ephesians 6—“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil” (vv10, 11).



I think it fair (though perhaps a bit crude) to describe it all as a “dumpster fire.” Of course, I saw a REAL one of those just last summer during one of our family drives (May 26, 2020). We arrived just in time to see the firefighters pull up and make quick work of the flames and smoke. Leo was VERY excited!

Before I could sit down to write about all this, I heard a rustling by our front door (about 10:00pm). I thought it might be Mr. Chan’s neighborhood kitty friend “Patrick” (another tuxedo kitty) batting at the window to say, “Hi.” Much to my surprise, it was a young man trying to break into our mailbox!

I’m not entirely sure what possessed me to do this but I opened the front door and said, rather sternly, “What do you think you’re doing?” and, seeing my mail in his hand, snatched both letters from his grasp! He didn’t say anything nor did he make any move to take the letters back or accost me (for which I am thankful); I think he was as surprised by my behavior as me (at least, upon reflection).

I told him that it was a Federal crime to tamper with the mail and, when he would not leave, I called the police . . . and he stuck around while I chatted with the non-emergency dispatcher (at least until the very end of the call)!

I believe the police apprehended the young man (he hadn’t traveled far). Needless to say, this young man didn’t get much Gospel from this pastor but rather Law (theologically AND practically). I pray that the Lord will use this encounter to call this young man to repentance and turn him from his lawlessness and into the arms of Jesus.

But that is the point of God’s Law—to bring us to Jesus. The Law “kills” because it shows us our sin and our need for a Savior; the Law also HURTS (sometimes a lot) because it is very much the death of the Old Adam who thinks himself to be a god and beholden to no powers except his own sinful passions. The same is true of tragic events in our world (manifestations of the brokenness brought forth by the Fall/Original Sin)—the Lord makes use of everything, even war, death, destruction, tempest, and storm, to drive us to His Son and bring forth His good and gracious will! And that is the right understanding of Romans 8, verse 28: “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (NKJV).

It goes without saying that God’s Word also brings us to Jesus by bringing Jesus to us! So please make time for our **study of the Psalms every Tuesday at Noon on “Zoom.”** This week we’ll be **studying Psalm 54.** And I would love for you to make time to 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

