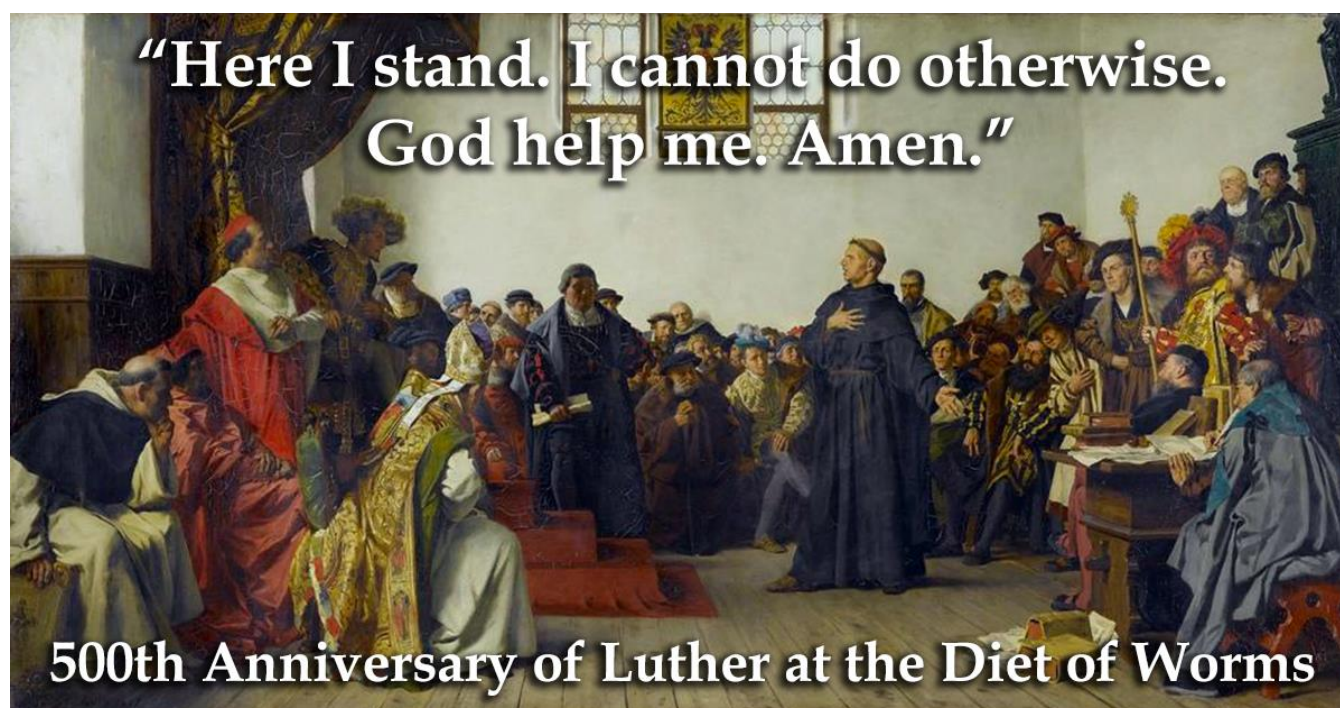




“Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise.
God help me. Amen.”

Martin Luther at the Imperial Diet of Worms (April 18, 1521)

“HERE I STAND” SUNDAY & THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER April 18, 2021



“Luther at the Diet of Worms” by Anton von Werner (1843-1915), 1877, Public Domain

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The risen Lord Jesus taught His disciples “that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead” and “that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations” (Luke 24:46–47). Through this forgiveness of sins and by faith in this forgiveness, the Father shows His love for us in order that “we should be called children of God; and so we are” (1 John 3:1).

More formally this is known as the Doctrine of Justification, that we are justified (declared sinless) by grace (free gift) through faith in the vicarious atonement of Christ Jesus (His death on the cross in our place/instead of us) apart from the works of the law. In other words, there is nothing that we Christians must do to be saved; everything that God’s Law demands of us, He has done for us—by His work alone are we made God’s children.

Today, we stand in the footsteps of Martin Luther 500 years later. We stand boldly, proclaiming the One who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. We stand boldly, renouncing the devil and all his works and all his ways. We stand, by the grace of God, steadfast and ready to suffer all rather than fall away.

We do not stand on Luther, but we will gladly stand with him, firm on the testimony of the Holy Scriptures to confess the saving Gospel of Christ, our Good Shepherd, who died and rose, in whose name is forgiveness of sins for all people. Here we stand; we can do no other. God help us. Amen.

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: With High Delight Let Us Unite

LSB 483



1 With high de-light Let us u - nite In songs of great
 2 True God, He first From death has burst Forth in - to life,
 3 Let prais-es ring; Give thanks, and bring To Christ our Lord

ju - bi - la - tion. Ye pure in heart, All bear your part,
 all sub-du - ing. His en - e - my Doth van-quished lie;
 ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed By word and deed

Sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To set us
 His death has been death's un - do - ing. "And yours shall
 To ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So shall His

free For - ev - er, He Is ris'n and sends To all earth's
 be Like vic - to - ry O'er death and grave," Saith He, who
 love Give us a - bove, From mis - er - y And death set

ends Good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
 gave His life for us, life re - new - ing.
 free, All joy and full con - so - la - tion.

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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.

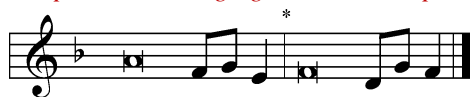
Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 30:1–5; antiphon: Psalm 16:11b

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



(Antiphon) In Your presence there is full- | ness of joy;*
at Your right hand are pleasures for- | evermore.

- ¹ I will extol You, O LORD, for You have | drawn me up*
and have not let my foes rejoice | over me.
- ² O LORD my God, I cried to | You for help,*
and You have | healed me.
- ³ O LORD, You have brought up my soul | from Sheol;*
You restored me to life from among those who go down | to the pit.
- ⁴ Sing praises to the LORD, O | you His saints,*
and give thanks to His | holy name.
- ⁵ For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a | lifetime.*
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the | morning.

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



C 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



P Glory be to God on high: **C** 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.

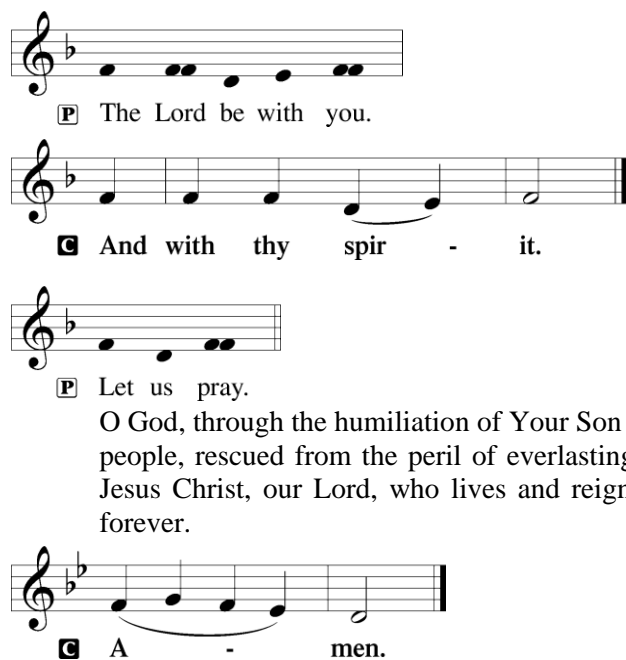
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

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.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G A - men.

FIRST READING

Acts 3:11–21

P The First Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter three.

¹¹While [the lame man who was now healed] clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. ¹²And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. ¹⁴But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And His name—by faith in His name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets long ago."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.



Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned Him with glory and | honor.

He has given Him dominion over the works | of His hands;*

He has put all things un- | der His feet.

EPISTLE

1 John 3:1–7

P The Epistle is from First John, chapter three.

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.

⁴Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that He appeared to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in Him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen Him or known Him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as He is righteous.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA & VERSE

Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32



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

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;
death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.

Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road,
while He opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.

The alleluias are repeated.

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁶Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.”
³⁷But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. ³⁸And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.”

⁴⁰When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. ⁴¹But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” ⁴²They gave Him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb. ⁴³And He took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” ⁴⁵And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

⁴⁶Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸And you are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Stand

NICENE CREED

G 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: I Know My Faith Is Founded

LSB 587

1 I know my faith is found - ed On Je - sus Christ, my
2 In - crease my faith, dear Sav - ior, For Sa - tan seeks by
3 In faith, Lord, let me serve You; Though per - se - cu - tion,
God and Lord; And this my faith con - fess - ing, Un -
night and day To rob me of this trea - sure And
grief, and pain Should seek to o - ver - whelm me, Let
moved I stand on His sure Word. Our rea - son can - not
take my hope of bliss a - way. But, Lord, with You be -
me a stead - fast trust re - tain; And then at my de -
fath - om The truth of God pro - found; Who trusts in hu - man
side me, I shall be un - dis - mayed; And led by Your good
par - ture, Lord, take me home to You, Your rich - es to in -
wis - dom Re - lies on shift - ing ground. God's Word is
Spir - it, I shall be un - a - fraid. A - bide with
her - it As all You said holds true. In life and
all - suf - fi - cient, It makes di - vine - ly sure; And
me, O Sav - ior, A firm - er faith be - stow; Then
death, Lord, keep me Un - til Your heav'n I gain, Where
trust - ing in its wis - dom, My faith shall rest se - cure.
I shall bid de - fi - ance To ev - 'ry e - vil foe.
I by Your great mer - cy The end of faith at - tain.

Text and tune: Public Domain

SERMON

Rev. 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

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 the constant presence of Christ with His Church, in which we find fullness of joy; in praise of His right hand, Christ Jesus, whose resurrected body has won peace forevermore; and for a lively hope in the resurrection of the dead, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the Church and her members, now made children of God through the incarnation of Christ and the reconciliation of His cross, that God would preserve the preaching of His Holy Word and its message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name among us and all the nations of the world, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For our homes, that Christ would give them peace and enliven them with His resurrected life; that He would cause the forgiveness of sins to reign among husband and wives, parents and children; and that He would assure those who live alone that they, too, are His children, upheld by His right hand, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For our nation and its leaders, especially Joseph, our president, Gavin, our governor, and Cheryl, our mayor; that God would preserve order and decency in this fallen world by their hands; and that He would restrain the sins and deceptions of the lawless so we may practice righteousness while awaiting that eternal peace found only in Christ's wounds, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all who are troubled in mind, body, or soul, that by Christ's wounds—by His stripes—His gladness, peace, and comforting presence ever pour forth to His disciples, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all who commune, that Christ, who has blotted out our sins by His crucifixion, would send us the blessed refreshment of His true body and most precious blood in the Sacrament of the Altar and make us fit partakers in repentance for the forgiveness of our sins, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.

P In thanksgiving for Martin Luther, God's servant, through whom the Christian Church was called back to the truth of the Scriptures; for boldness to confess the Gospel faithfully in our time and to stand unashamed on the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures in the face of all opposition or discomfort; and that God would preserve the witness to Christ's resurrection in His Church, that all consciences may be bound up by His forgiveness, 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 forever.

C Amen.

The live-stream service 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 Let us pray.

O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence that because He lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come will be able to separate us from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Stand

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

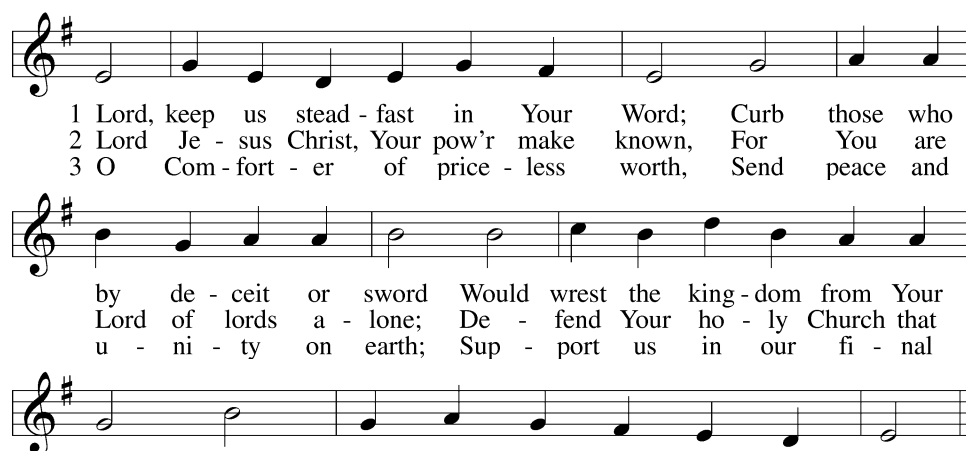


P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make
His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
C A-men, a-men, a - men.

The Divine Service continues with the Lord's Supper for those at the church. Please sing/read aloud the closing hymn and come by later for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.

CLOSING HYMN: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

LSB 655



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and
by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal
Son And bring to naught all He has done.
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text and tune: Public Domain

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Easter! Alleluia! Christ is Risen! (Reading this, you say in your head, “He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!”)

And Happy Birth-Day (two days ago, April 16) to my newest nephew: Ellis Griebenaw! This little miracle—the knitting of God’s own hand—burst forth from his momma, Virginia, at 7:09 am, weighing in at 8lbs 3oz and stretching to 20 inches long! Now the question is: When is this little guy gonna get dunked (Baptized)? I know a guy! LOL!

It makes me so happy to think of my other nephew, Bennett, growing up with a brother! My brother, Dan, was my best friend growing up—imminently patient with his precocious and competitive little brother. But he has also been my best friend in adult life, too! And it’s been tough to be so distant the past decade (almost a decade . . . we left Denver and pretty much all of my family back in 2012).

Yep! Brothers are pretty awesome!

And now that Sam is getting older, he and Leo are starting to play together—REAL play, I mean, complete with chasing and laughter, and sometimes ending with tumbling and tears. But through all of it, you’re brothers!



And that brings me to a reminder for all of us from today’s Epistle (1 John 3): Not only are we called children of God, that is EXACTLY WHAT WE ARE! No matter how we might feel right now about our relationship with God or with each other (maybe now is one of those times of tumbling and tears?), we are and remain God’s children and family with each other! “Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning” (Psalm 30:5b). Like earthly families, there are ups and downs . . . but we are family—God’s family!

And today, we’re going to have a Family Zoom Party! Today is our next **Congregation Meeting on “Zoom” at 4:00pm.** (I apologize for the late reminder . . . this one snuck up on me.) Please join your brothers and sisters in Christ as we conduct the business of our church. You may join by computer/smartphone/etc or by telephone.

- To join the meeting by computer, use this link:
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715?pwd=WDdaekl0TmM2QXRISExYR0NURmpidz09>
- To join by telephone, call any of the following numbers and enter the meeting ID and password:
 - 669-900-9128, 346-248-7799, 253-215-8782, 312-626-6799, or 646-558-8656
 - Meeting ID is 7603525715# and the Password is 12345

Also, I hope you’ll still join me this week for our “Zoom” Bible Study on Tuesday at Noon, continuing with Psalm 38. And then tune-in or come by in-person on Wednesday night at 7:00pm for our short prayer service.

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715>
- To join the study by phone, call either “669-900-9128” or “346-248-7799” and enter 7603525715#
- The password for both (computer or telephone) is “12345”

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

P.S. I’m attaching a copy of a nice little writeup about “Here I Stand” Sunday that the synod put together. I hope you’ll take the time to read it and consider the importance of Luther’s steadfastness under trial and how we might emulate him in our own lives as confessing Christians.



"HERE I STAND"

The 500th Anniversary
of Luther's Confession at
the Diet of Worms
Sunday, April 18



Luther's Answer at the Diet of Worms:

It could have all ended the evening of April 18, 1521. The sun was beginning to set on the city of Worms. The heat was stifling in the packed room of the bishop's palace where emperor, electors and German princes all waited with anticipation to hear the answer Martin Luther would bring. Would Luther recant? Would he retract what he had written and said against abuses in the church and against papal tyranny? Most of all, would he give up on the Gospel he had preached and taught, giving comfort and certainty to consciences in Christ?

"Martin, answer clearly and without any double-talk: Do you or do you not recant your books and the errors in them?" If Luther were to recant and admit that he was wrong, all would be well before the emperor and the Roman Catholic Church. On the other hand, if he did not recant, his own life would be at risk. He could be burned as a heretic.

This was it: recant or stand firm. With beads of sweat on his face, Luther responded:

"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe

nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen" (LW 32:112–13).

At this bold confession, the room erupted in noise. Some rejoiced; some demanded fire! Yet, in the midst of such commotion, the truth of Jesus Christ rang forth. The gates of Hades had not prevailed over the confession of the Gospel. The proclamation of justification by grace through faith on account of Christ's work alone did not bend to spiritual tyranny.

500 Years Later:

Today, we stand in the footsteps of Martin Luther 500 years later. We stand boldly, proclaiming the One who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. We stand boldly, renouncing the devil and all his works and all his ways. We stand, by the grace of God, steadfast and ready to suffer all rather than fall away. We do not stand on Luther, but we will gladly stand with him, firm on the testimony of the Holy Scriptures to confess the saving Gospel of Christ, our Good Shepherd, who died and rose, in whose name is forgiveness of sins for all people. Here we stand; we can do no other. God help us. Amen.

Find more at lcms.org/here-i-stand-sunday, including giving opportunities for providing a thank offering.