



“I will not leave you as orphans;
I will come to you.”

+ John 14:18

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 24, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Like the first disciples in Acts 1, we still wonder what awaits us between our Lord’s ascension and His promised return. Yet we know that He is still with us—we need not see him with our physical eyes! He is still speaking to and strengthening us with His gift of salvation and eternal life. In Holy Baptism, Absolution, Communion, and the preaching of His Word, He gives us His mercy—delivering to us the very gifts of God.

In Jesus, our lives are transformed. In the power of the Holy Spirit, we are given to avoid the kind of sufferings that our own sinful passions bring forth; rather, we embrace the blessed suffering that comes from taking up our cross of faith and following Jesus. As the Day of Pentecost approaches, we will understand and believe by means of the Holy Spirit our blessed unity with Christ and with God the Father through faith in Jesus.

Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s phone: (760) 679-3699

Pastor’s email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✠ MATINS ✠

OPENING HYMN: Father, We Praise Thee

LSB 875



1 Fa - ther, we praise Thee, now the night is o - ver, Ac - tive and
2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for Thy man - sions; Ban - ish our
△ 3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty



watch - ful, stand we all be - fore Thee; Sing - ing, we of - fer
weak - ness, health and whole-ness send - ing; Bring us to heav - en,
bless - ed, send us Thy sal - va - tion; Thine is the glo - ry,



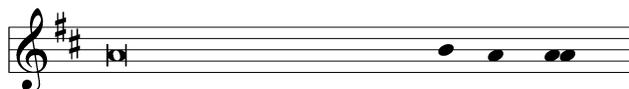
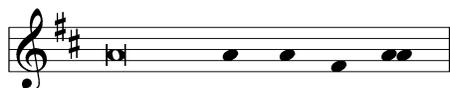
prayer and med - i - ta - tion: Thus we a - dore Thee.
where Thy saints u - nit - ed Joy with - out end - ing.
gleam - ing and re - sound - ing Through all cre - a - tion.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

OPENING VERSICLES

Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1



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 is risen in - deed. Al - le - lu - ia.
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 is risen in - deed. Al - le - lu - ia.



G O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Sit

OFFICE HYMN: Entrust Your Days and Burdens

LSB 754, sts. 1-3



1 En - trust your days and bur - dens To God's most lov - ing
2 Re - ly on God your Sav - ior And find your life se -
3 Take heart, have hope, my spir - it, And do not be dis -



hand; He cares for you while rul - ing The
cure. Make His work your foun - da - tion That
mayed; God helps in ev - 'ry tri - al And



sky, the sea, the land. For He who guides the
your work may en - dure. No anx - ious thought, no
makes you un - a - fraid. A - wait His time with



tem - pests A - long their thun - d'rous ways Will
wor - ry, No self - tor - ment - ing care Can
pa - tience Through dark - est hours of night Un -



find for you a path - way And guide you all your days.
win your Fa - ther's fa - vor; His heart is moved by prayer.
til the sun you hoped for De - lights your ea - ger sight.

READINGS

FIRST READING

Acts 1:12-26

¹²Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶“Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ¹⁸(Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰“For it is written in the Book of Psalms, ‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and ‘Let another take his office.’”

²¹“So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:12–5:11

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” ¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

¹So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ²shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. ⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE



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

Romans 6:9; John 14:18

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Alleluia.



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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the seventeenth chapter.

G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, He lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You, ²since You have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. ³And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴I glorified You on earth, having accomplished the work that You gave Me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify Me in Your own presence with the glory that I had with You before the world existed.

⁶“I have manifested Your name to the people whom You gave Me out of the world. Yours they were, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷Now they know that everything that You have given Me is from You. ⁸For I have given them the words that You gave Me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. ⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰All Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

RESPONSORY: Easter

Psalm 96:2; Psalm 29:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:20

Verse *To Refrain*

- L** 1 Sing to the Lord and bless His name, proclaim His salvation from day to day.
- 2 Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of them that sleep.
- 3 Glory be to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.

Refrain

G Give to the Lord all glo - ry and strength, give Him the
hon - or due His name. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Sit

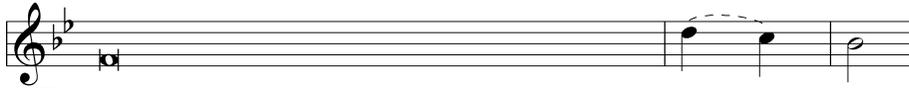
SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

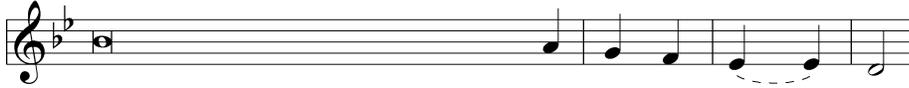
CANTICLE

Stand

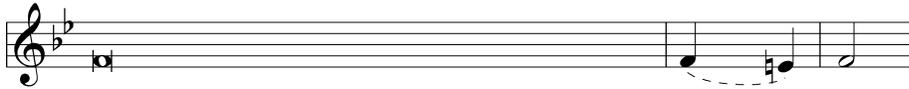
TE DEUM: We Praise You, O God



- 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



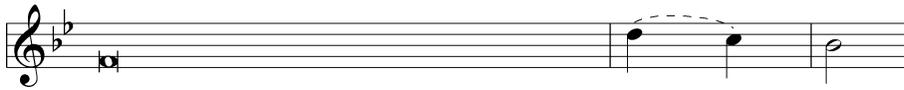
- 5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



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



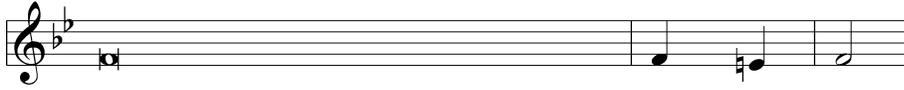
- 5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.



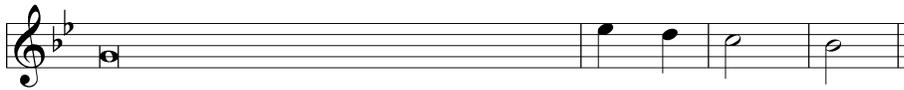
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,
 8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
 9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out _____ sin.



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 Let us pray.

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Collect During an Epidemic

P Almighty God, heavenly Father, give us grace to trust You during this time of illness and distress.

In mercy put an end to the epidemic that afflicts us. Grant relief to those who suffer, and comfort all that mourn. Sustain all medical personnel in their labors, and cause Your people ever to serve You in righteousness and holiness; 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.

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: Entrust Your Days and Burdens

LSB 754, sts. 4-6



4 Leave all to His di - rec - tion; His wis - dom rules for
5 O bless - ed heir of heav - en, You'll hear the song re -
6 Our hands and feet, Lord, strength - en; With joy our spir - its



you In ways to rouse your won - der At
sound Of end - less ju - bi - la - tion When
bless Un - til we see the end - ing Of



all His love can do. Soon He, His prom - ise
you with life are crowned. In your right hand your
all our life's dis - tress. And so through - out our



keep - ing, With won - der - work - ing pow'rs Will
mak - er Will place the vic - tor's palm, And
life - time Keep us with - in Your care And



ban - ish from your spir - it What gave you trou - bled hours.
you will thank Him glad - ly With heav - en's joy - ful psalm.
at our end then bring us To heav'n to praise You there.

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

Tomorrow is Memorial Day, when we remember all of our American sons and daughters who have given their lives in service to our nation, in the defense of our freedoms, in defense of their brothers- and sisters-in-arms, and in defense of you and me.

Like many of our national holidays, the meaning seems to have been lost among some people— Memorial Day has become synonymous with barbecuing, the “start of summer”, and all manner of personal events that have nothing to do with honoring the fallen. For those of you, who like me, have served in the armed forces, the meaning of this holiday, like the honor and courage of our fallen comrades, never fades. With the social-distancing and stay-at-home orders keeping our celebrations small, I hope that more Americans will take the time to reflect on the real meaning of Memorial Day.

We are also entering the 10th week of the Stay-at-Home directive from Governor Newsom. On the one hand, *I can't believe it has already been 10 weeks!* It seems like it was just yesterday we were meeting at church, going to parks, getting haircuts, and so on. (By sheer luck I got my haircut right before the mall closed! Can you image what my hair would look like now?! To quote Mr. Sulu from *Star Trek* – “Oh my!”) On the other hand, *I can't believe it has only been 10 weeks!* This “lockdown” feels more like *10 months* than just 10 weeks. The days are blending together into one giant mess!

But things are beginning to “open up” some (at least more than one Starbucks is open again). But the Imperial County is still very early in “Stage 2” of the reopening and our county remains pretty hard-hit by the virus. So, while you probably heard in the news that President Trump has declared churches to be “essential services” and desires that they should be allowed to operate, the State of California still lists “religious services and cultural ceremonies” as “not open” (<https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap-counties/>).

What does this mean for Grace? Well, it's a play on words, but I think we keep moving forward in “grace” . . . for now. I and several others in our church have been “noodling over” what it will look like to come back to the building and what we'll need to do to prepare for it. But we aren't there yet.

So let's keep extending grace to one another at Grace as we walk together through this strange time. But if you have concerns or questions, please give me a call or send me an email or write me a letter! Just reach out to me—I want to hear from you and know how you're doing and help in any way I can. As always, if you want me to visit or bring Holy Communion to you (or schedule a time to come to the church and receive Holy Communion there), let me know and we'll make it happen! ☺

I would love for you to join me on “Zoom” for our **Bible study on the Psalms** (this week we study Psalm 5). The study is **every Tuesday at Noon**. We'll socialize for the first 15 minutes and then start the study at 12:15pm, wrapping up by 12:45pm. We'll close with prayer and say goodbye before 1:00pm.

- 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#

Then 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, while our physical gatherings are suspended, please remember that the work of Christ's church continues. Please 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