



# Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

+ 2 Peter 3:18a

**THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**June 13, 2021**



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Many of Jesus's parables have to do with agriculture—from the parable of the sower to this short description of the Kingdom being like a mustard seed. While there are many details that may apply to our daily lives, today's focus is on the seed and the mystery of how it grows: that which brings the seed from planting to harvest is the providence of God and His goodness and power.

This is both the object of our interest and the domain of faith that trusts what the eye does not see and what the mind cannot comprehend. At the end of it all is the harvest; God brings into His storehouse all the fruits of His seed planted in good soil. The blissful ignorance we have of this process should not deprive us of the joy of its outcome.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
+Pastor Griebenaw

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## ✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

### HYMN OF INVOCATION: Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

LSB 904

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your Word We are gath - ered  
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est  
 3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light of Light, from  
 △ 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Lord, Praise to You and

all to hear You. Let our hearts and souls be stirred  
 dark - ness shroud - ed Till Your Spir - it breaks our night  
 God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;  
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we may trust Your Word,

Now to seek and love and fear You, By Your teach - ings,  
 With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to  
 Help us by Your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry Your  
 Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -

sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love You sole - ly.  
 God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.  
 Church now rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.  
 low must wan - der, Till we sing Your prais - es yon - der.

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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.

### SERVICE OF THE WORD

#### INTROIT

Psalm 92:12-15; antiphon: v. 1

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



*(Antiphon)* It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,\*  
to sing praises to Your name, | O Most High.

<sup>12</sup> The righteous flourish like the | palm tree\*  
and grow like a cedar in | Lebanon.

<sup>13</sup> **They are planted in the house | of the LORD;\*  
they flourish in the courts | of our God.**

<sup>14</sup> They still bear fruit in | old age;\*  
they are ever full of | sap and green,

<sup>15</sup> **to declare that the LORD is | upright;\*  
He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness | in Him.**

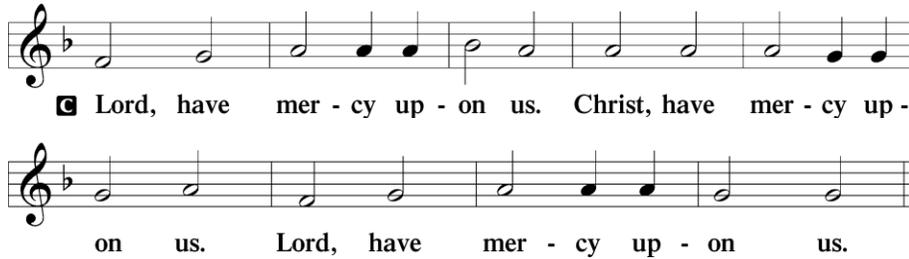
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

*The antiphon is repeated.*

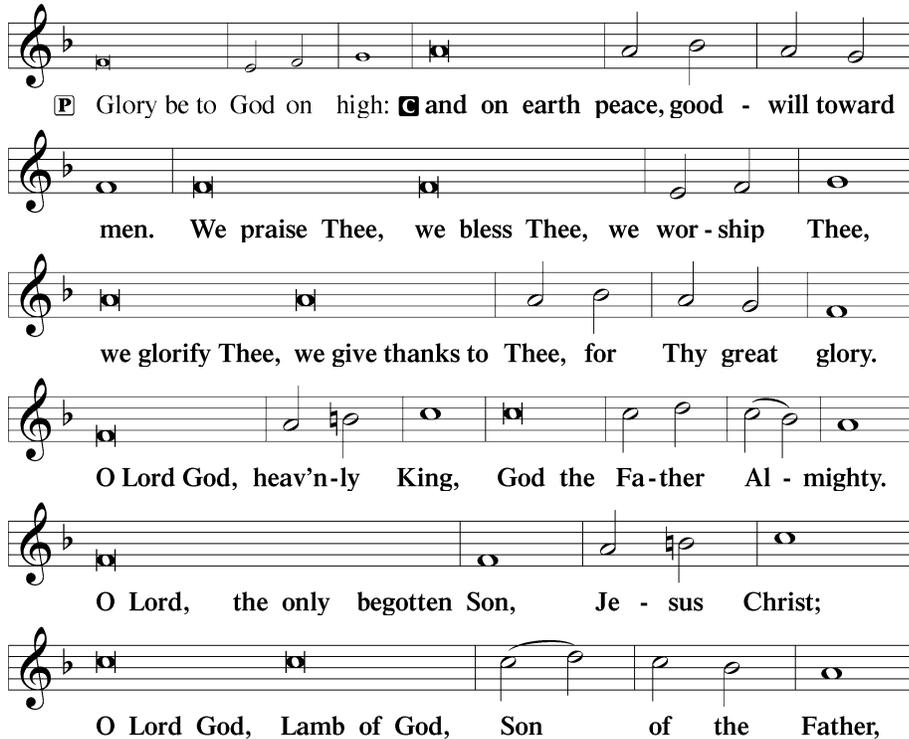
#### KYRIE

Mark 10:47



#### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



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.  
Blessed Lord, since 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 we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** A - men.

*Sit*

**OLD TESTAMENT**

*Ezekiel 17:22–24*

**P** The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, chapter 17.

<sup>22</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: “I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. <sup>23</sup>On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. <sup>24</sup>And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it.”

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

**G** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b

*The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.*



Great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised,\*  
**and His greatness is un- | searchable.**  
On Your wondrous works, I will | meditate,\*  
**and I will declare Your | greatness.**

## EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:1–10

**P** The Epistle is from Second Corinthians, chapter five.

<sup>1</sup>We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup>For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup>if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup>He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

<sup>6</sup>So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him. <sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA & VERSE

2 Peter 3:18a



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

Alleluia. Grow in the grace and knowledge of our  
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Alleluia.

*The alleluias are repeated.*

## HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 4:26–34

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



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

<sup>26</sup>And [Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>And He said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables He spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. <sup>34</sup>He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to His own disciples He explained everything.

**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: O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth**

*LSB 834*



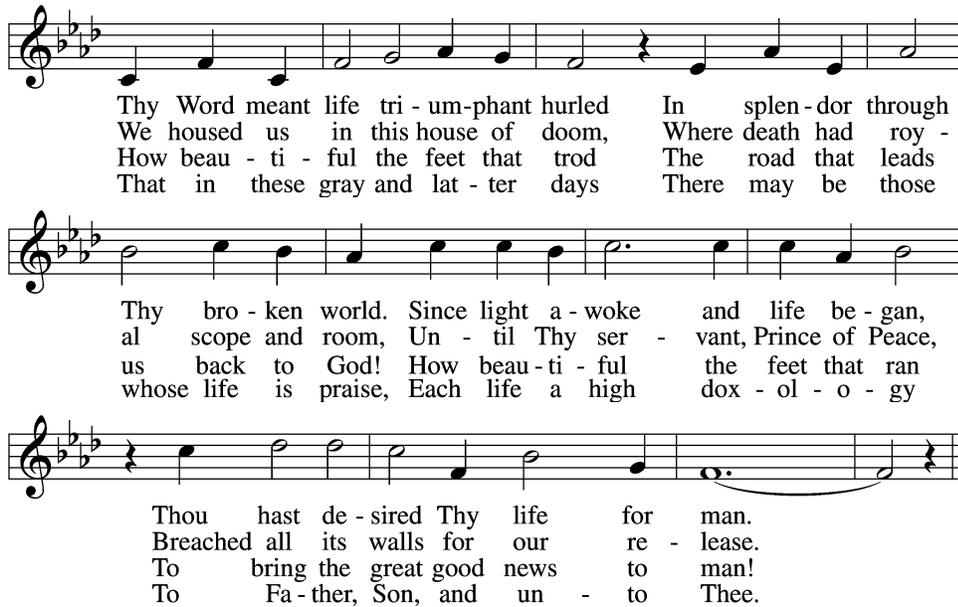
1 O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth, Thy liv - ing  
2 Our fa - tal will to e - qual Thee, Our reb - el  
3 Thou cam - est to our hall of death, O Christ, to  
△ 4 O Spir - it, who didst once re - store Thy Church that



fin - ger nev - er wrote That life should be an aim -  
will wrought death and night. We seized and used in pride -  
breathe our poi - soned air, To drink for us the dark  
it might be a - gain The bring - er of good news



less mote, A death-ward drift from fu - tile birth.  
ful spite Thy won - drous gift of lib - er - ty.  
de - spair That stran - gled our re - luc - tant breath.  
to men, Breathe on Thy clo - ven Church once more,



Thy Word meant life tri-umphant hurled In splen-dor through  
 We housed us in this house of doom, Where death had roy -  
 How beau-ti-ful the feet that trod The road that leads  
 That in these gray and lat-ter days There may be those

Thy bro-ken world. Since light a-woke and life be-gan,  
 al-scope and room, Un-til Thy ser-vant, Prince of Peace,  
 us back to God! How beau-ti-ful the feet that ran  
 whose life is praise, Each life a high dox-ol-o-gy

Thou hast de-sired Thy life for man.  
 Breached all its walls for our re-lease.  
 To bring the great good news to man!  
 To Fa-ther, Son, and un-to Thee.

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**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**

*Psalms 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 to the Most High, who has planted His Holy Word among us; and for the Church's healthy growth, that we may weather the storm-winds of this world steadfast in Christ, ever bearing the fruits of love and singing praises to His name, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the preaching and teaching of God's Holy Word, that by His Spirit it may sprout and grow when and where it pleases God, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this and every congregation, that God's kingdom may be extended and we may have thankful hearts to marvel at His work, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** That God would send faithful laborers into His fields to scatter His seed here and abroad, so in due time a harvest may be reaped for His glory, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For our homes and families, that the Lord would make the efforts of parents fruitful in the teaching of their children and preserve them in the saving faith of Jesus according to the promises He has spoken and will surely fulfill, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those in positions of authority among us, for Joseph and Gavin and all elected officials, that God would guide them by His Spirit to be high in purpose, wise in counsel, firm in good resolution and unwavering in duty; and for our nation and its people, that we may be governed quietly and peaceably, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all God's servants who groan under the burdens of this earthly tent and long to be clothed with His eternal life that swallows up all mortal sorrow; that He give them good courage to walk by faith and not sight, to mourn the dead in the hope of the resurrection, and to make it their aim to please Him while here in the body, until at last we are all at home with Christ, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Holy Father, from Israel You have taken a tender sprig, Your chosen Messiah, Jesus, and planted Him on the mountain for our salvation. By His death on a tree You have reversed the curse of sin and brought life again to dry, dusty souls. Let us not despise Your Christ, His humility or His suffering, but bring us with all the faithful into the shade of His eternal rest; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

*The 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.

Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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.

*Please note: Out of an abundance of caution, we are not celebrating the Lord's Supper this day as Pastor has a cold.*

## CLOSING HYMN: Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

*LSB 924*

1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's  
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling  
joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,  
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion  
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,  
Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;  
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,  
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,  
O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.  
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

Text and tune: Public Domain

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

## SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

You know the old adage: What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. Well, it seems that the common cold doesn't follow that rule because I picked up the sniffles while we were there! Thankfully, it didn't pick up until the drive home so the family and I still had a great time in Las Vegas. I've also had the week to catch up on sleep and get to feeling better. Still, out of an abundance of caution, we did not celebrate the Lord's Supper this day (lest I should somehow pass to you my cold).

We took a different route up to Las Vegas, up past Palm Springs and through Joshua Tree National Park and the Mojave National Preserve. Part of this drive goes along historic Route 66 and we stopped at Amboy, California to look at "Roy's Motel and Cafe" which has a cool old Lincoln Continental parked by the sign. Leo insisted we stop to check out the car! This was a really scenic drive and even though it took us a little over six hours to get to Las Vegas, it didn't feel nearly that long!



We stayed at the Vdara in the City Center complex on the Las Vegas Strip and the hotel staff put us in a room on the 40<sup>th</sup> floor of the hotel (maybe because it was Holly's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday?!). The view was tremendous, and Leo could watch all the cars traveling up and down I-15.

Speaking of cars, we visited the Shelby Heritage Center and got to see about 30 Shelby cars! Of course, the gift shop had all sorts of wares (travel mugs, clothing, memorabilia, etcetera), including TOY CARS! So Leo was able to add four new Shelby cars to his ever-growing collection! Also, there are lots of cars to be seen on the Las Vegas, parked at the various resorts. Leo got to have his picture taken with a Maserati, a Volvo, a Jaguar, an Alfa Romeo, and a Rolls Royce!

On Holly's birthday she went to the spa at Bellagio and got a haircut from a Hungarian hairstylist and a pedicure from a Lithuanian manicurist. Holly's friend Kira (who surprised Holly for this visit) got her treatments from a gal from Cuba! That's part of what Holly and I love about Las Vegas: folks from all across the globe come to this city to live, work, and play—and the combined culture and experience is truly global!

Me and the boys joined Holly and Kira for lunch between the spa-sessions. After catching a Bellagio Fountain Show (which both boys LOVED), we had a little party in the hotel room and Kira watched our boys while Holly and I had a date-night. We dined at the Chandelier Lounge (no kidding! It's a lounge INSIDE a crystal chandelier!) at the Cosmopolitan, enjoying cocktails and charcuterie! We then wandered the Strip and took in another Bellagio Fountain Show before heading back to tuck the guys into bed.

I have loads more pictures but I'll save them for next week. I'll leave you with a group shot from outside the Bellagio as we awaited the Fountain Show (Leo and Sam didn't know what to expect . . . they were, at present, tired of waiting, LOL).



I do hope you'll join me for our **study of the Psalms every Tuesday at Noon on "Zoom."** We'll be studying **Psalm 45** this week. And then tune-in or come by for our **short prayer service on Wednesday night at 7:00pm.**

- 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#
- 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