



“Today salvation has come to this house,
since he also is a son of Abraham.
For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

+ *Luke 19:9b, 10*

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 18, 2020



Tribute to Caesar by Jan Luyken, courtesy of the Philip Medhurst Collection at Belgrave Hall, Leicester, England

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Countless times during Christ’s mission in human flesh for the sins of the world, the Pharisees and others tried to test, trap, and trick Jesus, thinking He would suffer a setback to His ministry. Time and time again, Jesus in His divine wisdom and teaching would instead turn those times into a setup for teaching about many things regarding life on earth and the kingdom of heaven.

We, too, face times of testing, trapping, and tricking, though not from Pharisees, but from this world, the devil, and our own sinful flesh, and often we face setbacks. We are wise to turn to the one who has called us to forgiveness, mercy, and a new life through His own life, death, and rising. Rejoicing in His grace, in response to His love, we faithfully, “render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s”

Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor’s email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✠ MATINS ✠

OPENING HYMN: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

LSB 940, sts. 1-4

1 Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a -
 3 Lo, the a - pos - tles' ho - ly train Join Thy sa - cred
 4 Thou art King of Glo - ry, Christ; Son of God, yet

bow be - fore Thee. All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,
 bove are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name to hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 born of Mar - y. For us sin - ners sac - ri - ficed,

All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee. In - fi - nite Thy
 In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heav'ns with
 And the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low, And from morn to
 As to death a Trib - u - tar - y, First to break the

vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.
 sweet ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!
 set of sun Through the Church the song goes on.
 bars of death, Thou hast o - pened heav'n to faith.

Text and tune: Public Domain

Stand

OPENING VERSICLES

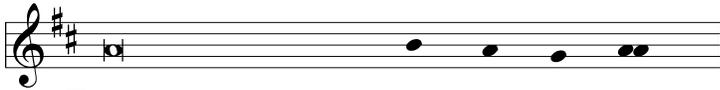
Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1

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

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

G 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



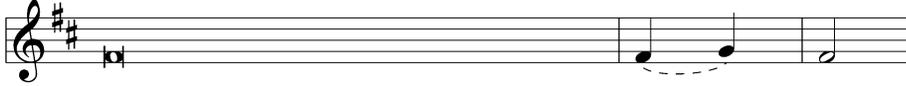
L Glorious is God with His an - gels and saints.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

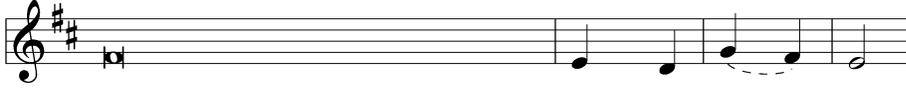
Venite

Psalm 95: 1-7



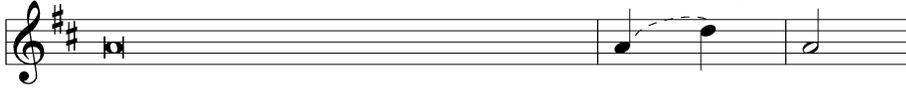
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great God
3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

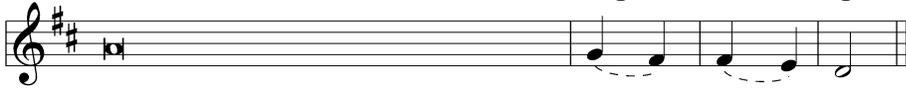


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
3 and His hand formed the dry land.

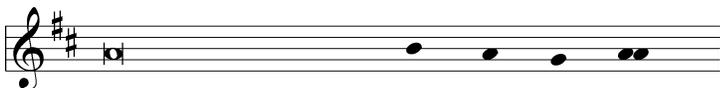
5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



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 Glorious is God with His an - gels and saints.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Sit



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,
 2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,
 3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor



In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy
 Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er
 That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that
 love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -
 geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this



they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
 blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!



May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our
 Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy
 Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead
 blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
 heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see



In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

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READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 45:1-7

P The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 45.

- ¹ Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus,
 whose right hand I have grasped,
 to subdue nations before him
 and to loose the belts of kings,
 to open doors before him
 that gates may not be closed:
- ² "I will go before you
 and level the exalted places,
 I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
 and cut through the bars of iron,
- ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
 and the hoards in secret places,
 that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
 the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴ For the sake of My servant Jacob,
 and Israel My chosen,
 I call you by your name,
 I name you, though you do not know Me.
⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other,
 besides Me there is no God;
 I equip you, though you do not know Me,
⁶ that people may know, from the rising of the sun
 and from the west, that there is none besides Me;
 I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷ I form light and create darkness,
 I make well-being and create calamity,
 I am the LORD, who does all these things.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

P The Epistle is from First Thessalonians, chapter one.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
 To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
 Grace to you and peace.

²We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers,
³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope
 in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers loved by God, that He has chosen you, ⁵because our
 gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.
 You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with
 the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.
⁸For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith
 in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹For they themselves
 report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols
 to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead,
 Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE



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

Luke 19:9b, 10

Alleluia. Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.
 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Alleluia.



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

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle Him in His talk. ¹⁶And they sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and You do not care about anyone’s opinion, for You are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what You think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?”

¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put Me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show Me the coin for the tax.”

And they brought Him a denarius.

²⁰And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?”

²¹They said, “Caesar’s.”

Then He said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left Him and went away.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

RESPONSORY

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



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



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

Sit

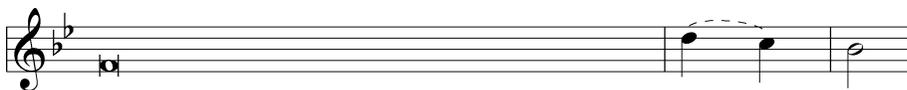
SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

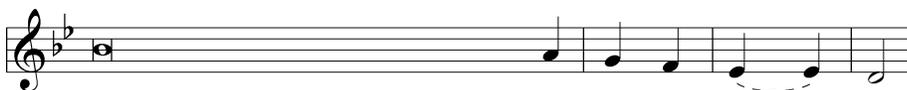
Stand

CANTICLE

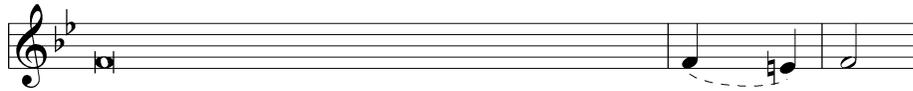
TE DEUM: We Praise You, O God



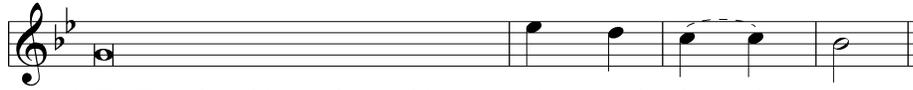
G 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs praise You.



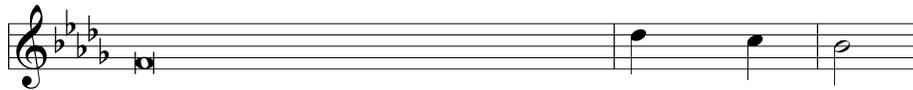
1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



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;



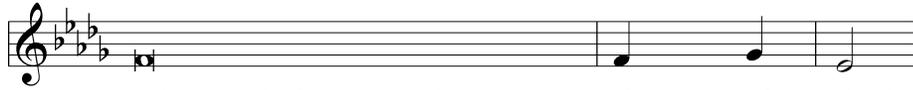
1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
 2 The goodly fellowship of the proph - ets praise You.
 3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com - fort - er.
 4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



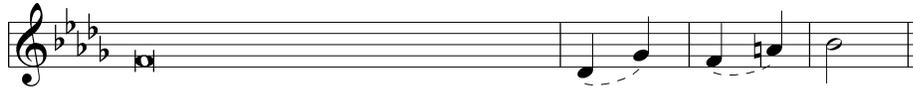
5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
 6 You sit at the right hand of God



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



C 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 O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; 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.

Collect of Thanksgiving

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we, Your unworthy servants, give You humble and hearty thanks for all the goodness and loving-kindness that You bestow on us. We praise You for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life. But above all, we bless You for Your boundless love in the redemption of the world by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. We implore You to give us a right understanding of all Your mercies that our hearts may ever be deeply thankful and that we may show forth Your praise with both our lips and our lives. Direct our lives in ways of holiness and righteousness all our days that we may enjoy the testimony of a good conscience and the hope of Your favor, be sustained and comforted in every time of trouble, and finally be received into Your everlasting kingdom; through Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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.



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: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

LSB 940, sts. 1, 5, 5-6



1 Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we
△ 5 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,
5 From Thy high ce - les - tial home, Judge of all, a -
6 Spare Thy peo - ple, Lord, we pray, By a thou - sand



bow be - fore Thee. All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,
three we name Thee; Though in es - sence on - ly one,
gain re - turn - ing, We be - lieve that Thou shalt come
snares sur - round - ed; Keep us with - out sin to - day,



All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee. In - fi - nite Thy
Un - di - vid - ed God we claim Thee And, a - dor - ing,
On that fi - nal judg - ment morn - ing, When Thy voice shall
Nev - er let us be con - found - ed. Lo, I put my



vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.
bend the knee While we own the mys - ter - y.
shake the earth And the star - tled dead come forth.
trust in Thee; Nev - er, Lord, a - ban - don me.

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

Next Sunday, October 25, is our commemoration of the Lutheran Reformation. And what better way to celebrate than to gather together—in-person—as the body of Christ!

That's right! **We will resume in-person services next Sunday at 9:00am outside on our patio.** If you choose to attend, please wear a face-covering and observe social-distancing practices (and we have all had *plenty* of practice at that over these last *six months*). I know this is not ideal but, for the sake of our neighbor and those whose conscience may be burdened, we endure with godly patience.

While I would love for us to gather inside our beautiful sanctuary, the pandemic restrictions still preclude indoor services. Thankfully, the weather has turned slightly cooler and we can gather outside in some comfort (the temperature at 9:00am should be around 75° F, warming to about 80° F by 10:00am, so if you have fully acclimated to El Centro weather, you might want to bring a sweater—LOL!)

We will continue our Facebook Live video at 9:00am, broadcasting the in-person service. Now, what this will look like, I cannot say (I still need to figure out exactly how this will be done since we'll be outside and I will be “moving about” for the in-person service).

We will also continue to offer Curbside Communion from 10:30am to 11:30am, outside the vestry—the door with the ramp on the south side of the church building. Not everyone will feel safe attending in-person worship and members of at-risk group may be wise to refrain; but please join us for the online service and come by afterwards to receive the Lord's true body and most precious blood.

I know you have all been able to see me but I am really looking forward to *seeing you* for the Sunday service. I have missed you all! And I know that Leo is excited to say hi to everyone again, too!

Lastly, I wanted to include a picture of a Roman Denarius, like the one shown to Jesus in our Gospel Reading this day. You can see the inscription in the Latin that reads “Caesar Augustus Tiberius, Son of the Divine Augustus” (in Latin: *Tiberius Caesar Divi Augusti Filius Augustus*). You will see that the Latin has actually been abbreviated to *TI CAESAR DIVI AVG F AVGVSTVS* (and, of course, every “U” is written as “V” . . . one of the many aspects of Latin that challenged your pastor in his studies of this language). The image is courtesy of CGB Numismatique (www.cgbfr.com), a French numismatic company.



Speaking of studying! . . . Please join me for our **Study of the Psalms** on “Zoom” **every Tuesday at Noon (ending by 1:00pm)**. We socialize for the first 15 minutes and work through the psalm from 12:15pm to 12:45pm, finishing by 1:00pm. This week we study Psalm 26.

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

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

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

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

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw