

Grace Lutheran Church

8th and Holt – PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530



“Peace to you! . . .

Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

+ John 20:26b, 27c (NKJV)

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 19, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

“Peace.”

It is such a central word in the Faith. One might even say that it is the whole Gospel in one word because peace is exactly what Christ brings. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the whole of creation (man, beast, and every created thing) was thrust into conflict—conflict with each other and conflict with God.

The Father was not content to leave us in such a sorry state and gave His only Son to be the price of peace. And that is the greatest miracle of Easter (Good Friday to Resurrection Sunday): that we should know peace!

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,
we have *peace* with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

+ Romans 5:1 (*emphasis added*)

In our present day, with the pandemic and all the associated fear and challenges, it is so very important for us to hear Christ’s peace anew! His voice has power – by His very speaking reality is made! “Peace to you!”

Yours in Christ Jesus,

+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s phone: (760) 679-3699

Pastor’s email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org


✠ MATINS ✠

Stand

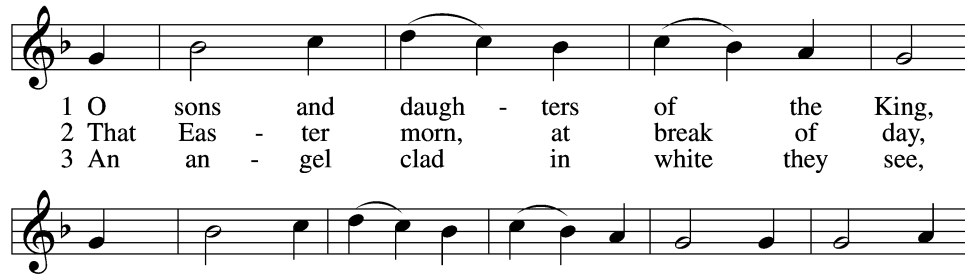
OPENING HYMN: O Sons and Daughters of the King

LSB 471, sts. refrain, 1-3


Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!




1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King,
 2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day,
 3 An an - gel clad in white they see,



Whom heav'n - ly hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the
 The faith - ful wom - en went their way To seek the
 Who sits and speaks un - to the three, "Your Lord will

The Refrain is repeated after st. 9.



grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!
 tomb where Je - sus lay. Al - le - lu - ia!
 go to Gal - i - lee." Al - le - lu - ia!

OPENING VERSICLES

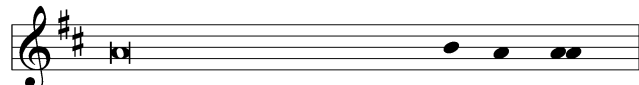
Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



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



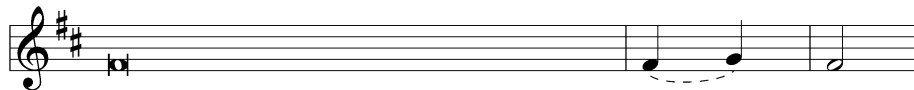
L Blessed be God, the Fa-ther, the Son, and the Ho-ly Spir - it.



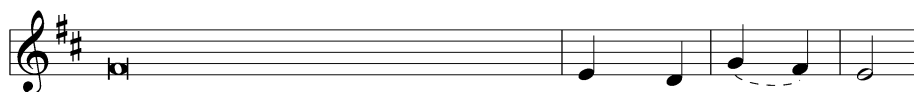
C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite

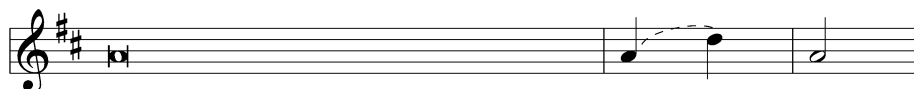
Psalm 95: 1-7



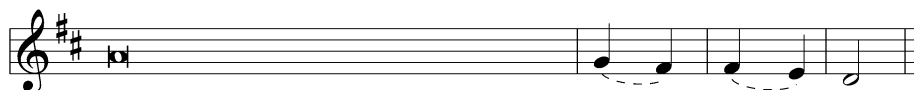
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
 2 For the Lord is a great God
 3 The sea is His, for He made it,
 5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son



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 Blessed be God, the Fa-ther, the Son, and the Ho-ly Spir - it.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Sit

OFFICE HYMN: O Sons and Daughters of the King

LSB 471, sts. refrain, 4-7

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear;
 5 When Thom - as first the tid - ings heard
 6 "My pierc - ed side, O Thom - as, see,
 7 No long - er Thom - as then de - nied;

A - mong them came their mas - ter dear And said, "My
 That they had seen the ris - en Lord, He doubt - ed
 And look up - on My hands, My feet; Not faith - less
 He saw the feet, the hands, the side; "You are my

The Refrain is repeated after st. 9.

peace be with you here." Al - le - lu - ia!
 the dis - ci - ples' word. Al - le - lu - ia!
 but be - liev - ing be." Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lord and God!" he cried. Al - le - lu - ia!

READINGS

FIRST READING

Acts 5:29-42

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging Him on a tree. ³¹God exalted Him at His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

- L** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C** Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:3–9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA



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

VERSE

Romans 6:9; John 20:29b

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

ALLELUIA



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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19–31

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

²⁰When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you.” ²²And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe.”

²⁶Eight days later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;
³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that
 by believing you may have life in His name.

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 15:220



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.



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

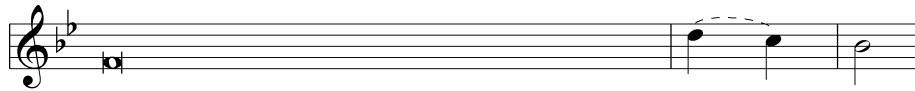
SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

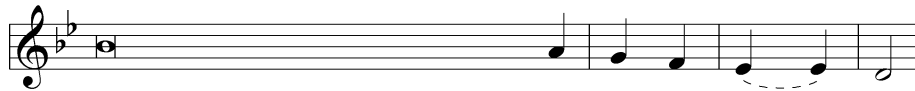
CANTICLE

Stand

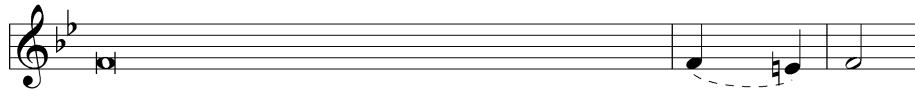
TE DEUM: We Praise You, O God



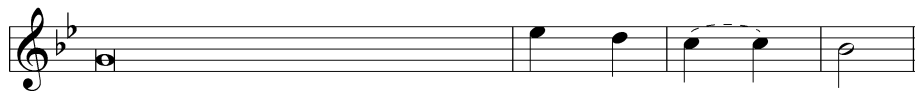
G 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 3 The noble army of martyrs praise — You.



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.

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.

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; 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 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.

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.




■ A - men.


Sit

BENEDICAMUS

Psalms 103:1



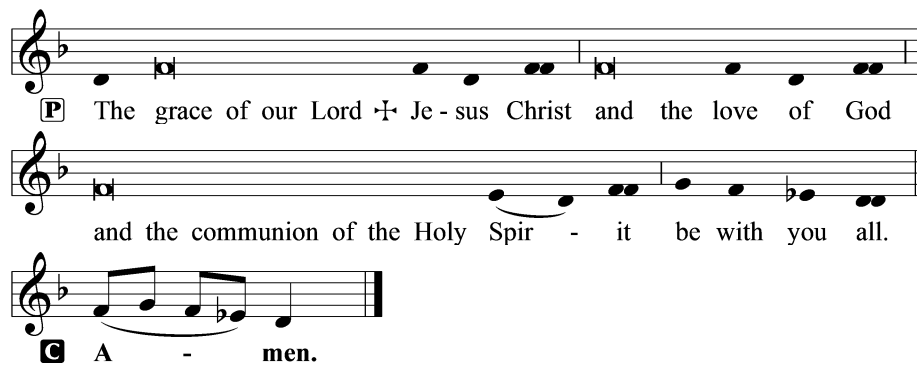
■ Let us bless the Lord.



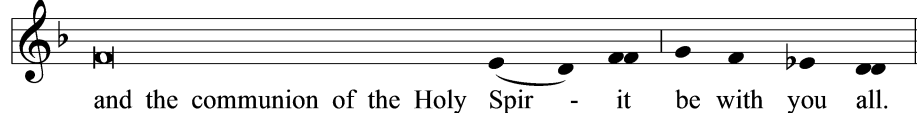
■ Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION


2 Corinthians 13:14



■ 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.



■ A - men.

CLOSING HYMN: O Sons and Daughters of the King

LSB 471, sts. refrain, 8-9

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



8 How blest are they who have not seen
9 On this most ho - ly day of days



And yet whose faith has con - stant been, For they e -
Be laud and ju - bi - lee and praise: To God your

The Refrain is repeated after st. 9.



ter - nal life shall win. Al - le - lu - ia!
hearts and voic - es raise. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Matins from Lutheran Service Book

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

One of my favorite pieces of Holy Scripture comes from the Gospel reading today: “These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:31). So important to me is this quote, that I have it engraved on the inside cover of that little red notebook that I’m always carrying around.

It is a reminder to me that we have real, tangible, proof of all the claims that Christianity makes in the faithful witness of the apostles, the evangelists, the prophets, and all the inspired authors of Holy Scripture. We have the faithful witness of God Himself as He speaks through the inspired writers of the Bible.

We need not be like Thomas and demand to touch the pierced hands and side of our Lord in order to believe. *We need not* be like him . . . but, so often, I find that I am. And so this little piece of Scripture reminds me that I have all that is needful – I have the WORD and it creates faith and sustains faith and deepens faith with each encounter.

And this piece of Scripture also reminds me of Christ’s blessing to us – the believing ones that are so far removed in time from that Easter Sunday – where He says, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:29).

I pray that our time together this day has brought you joy, comfort, and the light of Christ Jesus into your homes. While we are apart from the Lord’s house, let us hold fast to God’s Word and earnestly study it each day, for it is written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we may have life in His name.

Lastly, while our physical gatherings are suspended, please remember that the work of Christ’s church continues. Please consider mailing 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