



And [the LORD] said to me,
“Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak to you.”

+ *Ezekiel 2:1*

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 4, 2021



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Israel was certainly a rebellious people (how little mankind has changed), and yet in today's Old Testament, God sends Ezekiel to speak to them. They were being punished as exiles in Babylon, but now they would know that God had not forgotten them; a prophet was among them! The future was full of grace, for they would return to the Promised Land when Cyrus came to power.

In the Gospel, our Lord was speaking graciously even after being rejected in His hometown; He sent the Twelve to other towns. Although they might also be rejected, they would have opportunity to speak peace and to heal.

And now, in our day, though we are all rebellious at times, the Gospel comes to us in power. Indeed, Paul says that God's power shows through his weakness. Through His Word and by the power of His Holy Spirit, God slays our old rebellious nature (Old Adam) and enlivens us (New Man) to urge others to repent and hear the Gospel.

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: Father Most Holy

LSB 504



1 Fa - ther most ho - ly, mer - ci - ful, and ten - der; Je - sus, our
 2 Trin - i - ty bless - ed, u - ni - ty un - shak - en, Good - ness un -
 3 Mak - er of all things, all Thy crea - tures praise Thee; All for Thy
 Δ 4 Lord God Al - might - y, un - to Thee be glo - ry, One in three



Sav - ior, with the Fa - ther reign - ing; Spir - it of com - fort,
 bound - ed, ver - y God of heav - en, Light of the an - gels,
 wor - ship were and are cre - at - ed; Now, as we al - so
 per - sons, o - ver all ex - alt - ed! Glo - ry we of - fer,



ad - vo - cate, de - fend - er, Light nev - er wan - ing;
 joy of those for - sak - en, Hope of all liv - ing,
 wor - ship Thee de - vout - ly, Hear Thou our voic - es.
 praise Thee and a - dore Thee, Now and for - ev - er.

Text and tune: Public Domain

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 132:13–16; antiphon: Psalm 34:8

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



(Antiphon) Oh, taste and see that the | LORD is good! *
Blessèd is the man who takes ref- | uge in Him!

- 13 For the LORD has chosen | Zion; *
He has desired it for His | dwelling place:
- 14 **“This is My resting place for- | ever; *
here I will dwell, for I have de- | sired it.**
- 15 I will abundantly bless her pro- | visions; *
I will satisfy her | poor with bread.
- 16 **Her priests I will clothe with sal- | vation, *
and her saints will | shout for joy.”**
- 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.**

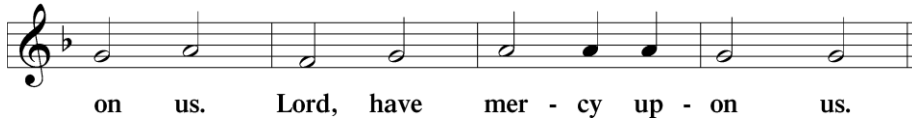
The antiphon is repeated.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

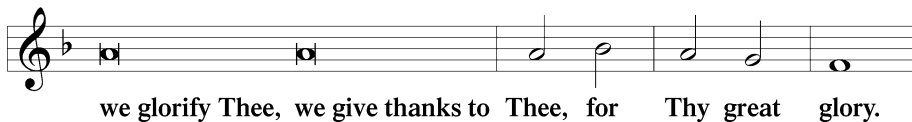
Luke 2:14; John 1:29



Glory be to God on high: 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.

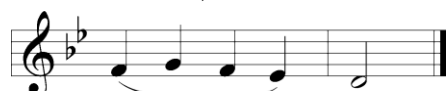


C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

O God, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy. Grant us the fullness of Your grace that we may be called to repentance and made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

OLD TESTAMENT

Ezekiel 1:1–2; 2:1–5

P The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, chapter two.

¹In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the Chebar canal, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. ²On the fifth day of the month (it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin), ³the word of the LORD came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the Chebar canal, and the hand of the LORD was upon him there. . . .

^{2:1}He said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.” ²And as He spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard Him speaking to me. ³And He said to me, “Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against Me. They and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day. ⁴The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ ⁵And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Romans 11:33, 36

The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.



Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowl- | edge of God!*

How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable | His ways!

For from Him and through Him and to Him are | all things.*

To Him be glory forever. | Amen.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 12:1–10

P The Epistle is from Second Corinthians, chapter 12.

¹I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me.

⁷So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But He said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.**” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE

Mark 6:13



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

Alleluia. They cast out many demons and anointed with oil
many who were sick and healed them. Alleluia.

The alleluias are repeated.

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



C Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹He went away from there and came to His hometown, and His disciples followed Him. ²And on the Sabbath He began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard Him were astonished, saying, “Where did this Man get these things? What is the wisdom given to Him? How are such mighty works done by His hands? ³Is not this the carpenter, the Son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” And they took offense at Him.

⁴And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” ⁵And He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶And He marveled because of their unbelief. And He went about among the villages teaching.

⁷And He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— ⁹but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics.

¹⁰And He said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. ¹¹And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.”

¹²So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

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 Christ, Our True and Only Light

LSB 839



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, En - light - en
2 Fill with the ra - diance of Your grace The souls now
3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray That they may
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold; Re - call the
5 That they with us may ev - er - more Such grace with



those who sit in night; Let those a - far now
lost in er - ror's maze; En - light - en those whose
find the sav - ing way! Let ev - 'ry con - science
wan - d'ers to Your fold. U - nite all those who
won - d'ring thanks a - dore And end - less praise to



hear Your voice And in Your fold with us re - jice.
in - most minds Some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
sore op - pressed In You find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
walk a - part; Con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,
You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

Text and tune: Public domain

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.

Philippians 4:7

C Amen.

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 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 For endurance as our Lord leads us through a hostile world that rejects His Christ and shows no honor to His wisdom or Church; that we would not lose heart; that the Holy Spirit would steel us for opposition; and that we may rest confidently on what God has said, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all preachers and hearers of God’s prophetic Word, that God would continue His great and mighty work of creating faith in Christ’s eternal blessings by His Holy Spirit; that God would remove all stubborn ears from our midst; and that Christ not leave us without His Word, but make His home among us and restore the joy of His salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the home, that God would soften obdurate hearts, turning parents and children toward each other in love and patience; and that He would banish the spirit of impudence, stubbornness and rebellion from all, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our nation on this Independence Day, that it may be defended against its enemies; for our leaders, that they may be preserved from temptation; and for the work of all civil authorities, that we may live quiet and peaceable lives according to God’s Word, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those whose pain is chronic, whose sustained suffering is unknown, who wrestle with “thorns” in body or mind, and all who are tempted to despair, that they may know that in their weakness they are strong for the sake of Christ, whose grace is sufficient for every need, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all those whom we name in the silence of our hearts, knowing that our Heavenly Father knows every suffering and need, and in His wisdom, acts for the good of all His creation; and for courage in weakness, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities, to boast in Christ and His cross, by which we and our sufferings are sanctified, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who commune this day, that in repentance and faith they may taste and see that their Lord is good in the abundant blessing of Christ’s true body and most precious blood, 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, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The live-stream 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 gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

The Divine Service continues with the Lord's Supper for those at the church. Please sing/read aloud the closing hymn. If you desire to receive Holy Communion, please text/call Pastor (he is usually at the church for a while on Sundays).

CLOSING HYMN: Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

LSB 917

1 Sav - ior, a - gain to Thy dear name we raise
2 Grant us Thy peace up - on our home - ward way;
3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
4 Grant us Thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,

With one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
With Thee be - gan, with Thee shall end, the day.
Turn Thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.
Our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife;

Once more we bless Thee ere our wor - ship cease,
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
From harm and dan - ger keep Thy chil - dren free;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,

Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait Thy word of peace.
That in this house have called up - on Thy name.
For dark and light are both a - like to Thee.
Call us, O Lord, to Thine e - ter - nal peace.

Text and tune: Public Domain

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Birthday to the good ol' United States of America!

It may not be a popular sentiment with the present zeitgeist—one that seemingly is consumed by a fervor to denigrate and destroy the past, recasting virtue as vice—but I love our country and its history. But more than this, I love the ethos of the founding of our nation: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” This is partly what motivated me to enlist in the United States Navy after college—to “do my part” to ensure that these high ideals are defended, maintained, and promoted.



Of course, as Christians we know that our true citizenship is not here in the world (no matter how laudable the nation where one is a citizen)—our citizenship is in the Kingdom of God and we look forward to the full realization of that citizenship in the new Heaven and Earth with the second coming of Christ. But for this day, we rejoice also that the Lord has established this nation and pray that He guide it and bless its continuance.



With the start of July, I'm reminded of another anniversary—July 24 is the Fifth Anniversary of my Ordination and my installation as your pastor. How has it been five years?! I remember when Holly and Leo and I showed up for Divine Service that Sunday morning—me in my suitcoat of all things (sweating)—and we sat in the front pew (which, by the way, is a silly idea when it's your first Sunday at a church because you don't know how things are done, like going up for Holy Communion).

That was also the last time I sat in the pews for a Sunday Service and now Holly has TWO BOYS to wrangle by herself. Yes, a lot has changed in five years—a lot has changed in just the LAST YEAR! Thanks be to God that now we are back together, in-person, for Divine Service and fellowship. Of all of us, Leo has missed you the most! He is beside himself every Sunday morning waiting to say hi to everyone (and to you cars LOL)!

If you haven't been coming in-person, I hope that you'll begin doing so soon. And if you have been coming, please stick around for coffee fellowship—I miss talking with all of you and hearing about your lives. Being together for worship and for fellowship is such an important part of our life together as Christians; if it were not so, our Lord would not have taken flesh to dwell with us . . . but He did! And that speaks volumes!

Please join me for our **study of the Psalms every Tuesday at Noon on “Zoom.”** We are studying **Psalm 47.** 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