



In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.
But in every nation whoever fears Him and
works righteousness is accepted by Him.

+ Acts 10:34, 35 (NKJV)

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 9, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

“In the sight of God” is a phrase used throughout Scripture. It reminds us of God’s unceasing care and concern for His creation. In Proverbs: “Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man” (Proverbs 3:3–4).

All of our life is in God’s amazingly loving sight as He watches over all His creation and especially over mankind. Out of love for Christ and one another, we strive to see others in the same way that God sees them—the crowning glory of all creation and the greatest treasure of His heart.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s Phone: 760-679-3699
Pastor’s Email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org



*“Peter Baptizing the Centurion Cornelius”
by Francesco Trevisani (1656-1746), 1709,
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✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION: Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious

LSB 548



1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, vic - to - rious! Thanks to Thee, O
2 Thou hast died for my trans - gres - sion, All my sins on
3 For the joy Thine ad - vent gave me, For Thy ho - ly,
Lord of Life! Death hath now no pow - er o'er us,
Thee were laid; Thou hast won for me sal - va - tion,
pre - cious Word; For Thy Bap - tism, which doth save me,
Thou hast con - quered in the strife. Thanks be - cause Thou didst a -
On the cross my debt was paid. From the grave I shall a -
For Thy blest Com - mu - nion board; For Thy death, the bit - ter
rise And hast o - pened par - a - dise! None can ful - ly
rise And shall meet Thee in the skies. Death it - self is
scorn, For Thy res - ur - rec - tion morn, Lord, I thank Thee
sing the glo - ry Of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.
tran - si - to - ry; I shall lift my head in glo - ry.
and ex - tol Thee, And in heav'n I shall be - hold Thee.

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 66:1–2, 8–9, 20; antiphon: v. 16

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



(Antiphon) Come and hear, all you who | fear God,*
and I will tell what He has done | for my soul.

¹ Shout for joy to God, | all the earth; *
² sing the glory of His name; give to Him | glorious praise!

⁸ **Bless our God, O | peoples; *
let the sound of His | praise be heard,**

⁹ who has kept our soul among the | living *
and has not let our | feet slip.

²⁰ **Blessèd | be God, *
because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast | love from me!**

**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



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



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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

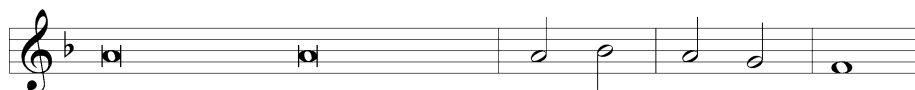
Luke 2:14; John 1:29



P Glory be to God on high: **C** 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.



G And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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.

FIRST READING

Acts 10:34–48

P The First Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter ten.

³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that He sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised Him on the third day and made Him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. ⁴²And He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the One appointed by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.”

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.



Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned Him with glory and | honor.

He has given Him dominion over the works | of His hands;*

He has put all things un- | der His feet.

EPISTLE

1 John 5:1–8

P The Epistle is from First John, chapter five.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of Him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA & VERSE

Romans 6:9; John 14:23



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

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.
In the world you will have tribulation.
But take heart, I have overcome the world. Alleluia.

The alleluias are repeated.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:9–17

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



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

⁹“As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love. ¹⁰If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Stand

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: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

LSB 700



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us
4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in
all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text and tune: Public Domain

SERMON

Rev. 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

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 all who come and hear God's Word, that they would rightly fear God and learn what He has done for their souls, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the work of our missionaries, that in every nation there would be people who fear God, do what is right and, believing in Jesus, receive forgiveness of sins through His name, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For our mothers, that with thanksgiving we may honor them aright as Christ honored and obeyed His mother while here on earth; for all women with child, that God would give them safe delivery; and for all women who long to have children but cannot, that they may find their consolation in Christ and His unfailing love, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For our nation's leaders, that God would cause them to serve wisely for our good in accord with His revealed order; though we do not always know what the Master is doing by the authorities He gives, that we would make ample use of the freedom Jesus has given in His name to ask the Father for everything as friends and fellow sons, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, that they receive from God all His good gifts of healing for the body, grace to bear the cross, and finally a blessed end and the gift of eternal life in His kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all who come to the Holy Supper, that having received the testimony of God in the water of Baptism, they may also receive it in the body and blood of Jesus and so overcome the world by faith in Him, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** Into Your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

The live-stream 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.

O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence that because He lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come will be able to separate us from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 and come by later for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.

CLOSING HYMN: Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

LSB 706



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, Bind - ing faith - ful
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, Clothed in Christ's hu -
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, Faint - ing not when



hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giv - ing.
mil - i - ty, Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
ills at - tend; Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



May His will in us be done.
Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.
Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! . . . He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Also, Happy Mother's Day!

What a blessing God has given us in our earthly mothers and the many special women who are "mothers" to us in many other ways. The love of a mother is unique—filled with tenderness, patience, compassion—and remains even when we children are naughty, selfish, or filled with the vitriol of impetuous youthfulness.

Is there another love like it? (Well, I might issue a challenge come Father's Day. LOL! In truth, the love of a mother and a father are each special and unique and complimentary—just as man and woman are complimentary to each other.)

There is another mother that we really ought to celebrate this day—a mother whose love is from God and whose love IS God.

Of course, I'm speaking of our "mother" in the faith: the one holy Christian and apostolic church, in whom we are born from above by the waters of Holy Baptism and are given true and full life in Christ Jesus!

So on behalf of our mother the church, I invite you to come visit her and rest within her hallowed halls, to hear God's Word, to receive His gifts of love, and to sing His praises!

As we heard in our Introit today (Psalm 66:8): Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard!

And please join me this week for our "Zoom" Bible Study on Tuesday at Noon. We are going to study Psalm 41. Then tune-in or come by in-person on Wednesday night at 7:00pm for our short prayer service (ending between 7:30pm and 7:45pm).

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

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Happy Mother's Day!
Thanks be to God
for all of our moms!

