



By grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God
+ *Ephesians 2:8*

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 2020



The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard, circa 1880, by Lawrence W. Ladd (1865-1895)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We find it hard not to notice others—what they have, what they earn, and how they live. What is worse, however, is when we constantly compare ourselves to others. In our sinfulness, we cannot escape those demons of envy or covetousness (no matter how hard we try or how much we protest against these feelings). Sadly, such thinking—such comparing—leads us to think that we are on the short end of the stick.

But when it comes to the kingdom of God, there is no room for quick comparisons. Instead, we stand in awe of God’s rich mercy and generous grace. This is far more than we deserve. If we insist upon comparing our situation to others and complaining, God’s response is clear: “Take what you have been given and leave.” But if we let go of the comparisons, we find ourselves blessed beyond measure with His forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor’s email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✠ MATINS ✠

OPENING HYMN: Salvation unto Us Has Come

LSB 555, sts. 1-5



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and
 2 What God did in His Law de - mand And none to Him could
 3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God His Law had
 4 From sin our flesh could not ab - stain, Sin held its sway un -
 5 Yet as the Law must be ful - filled Or we must die de -



fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They
 ren - der Caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand For
 giv - en That sin - ners could them - selves re - deem And
 ceas - ing; The task was use - less and in vain, Our
 spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled, Our



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus
 man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those
 by their works gain heav - en. The Law is but a
 guilt was e'er in - creas - ing. None can re - move sin's
 hu - man na - ture shar - ing. He has for us the



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
 pure de - sires The spir - it of the
 mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
 poi - soned dart Or pu - ri - fy our
 Law o - beyed And thus the Fa - ther's



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.
 Law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.
 sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
 guile - ful heart— So deep is our cor - rup - tion.
 ven - geance stayed Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.

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Stand

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 The Lord has sanc - ti - fied us in the true faith.
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 The Lord has sanc - ti - fied us in the true faith.
C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

OFFICE HYMN: Lord of All Hopefulness

LSB 738



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
 Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:
 Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:6–9

P The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 55.

- ⁶ “Seek the LORD while He may be found;
 call upon Him while He is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake his way,
 and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
 let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him,
 and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.
⁸ “For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
 neither are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.
⁹ “For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are My ways higher than your ways
 and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

P The Epistle is from Philippians, chapter one.

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,
¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment
 is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment,
 are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

¹⁹For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out
 for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed,
 but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in Him but also suffer for His sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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.

Ephesians 2:8

Alleluia. By grace you have been saved through faith.

And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Alleluia.



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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’

⁸“And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

RESPONSORY

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



- 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 Spir - it.



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

Sit

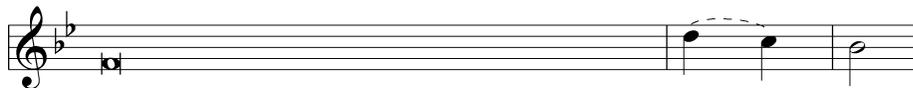
SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

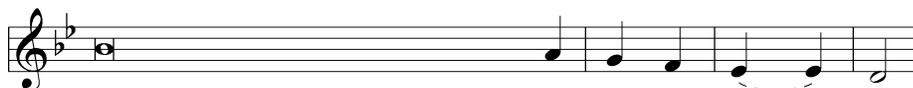
Stand

CANTICLE

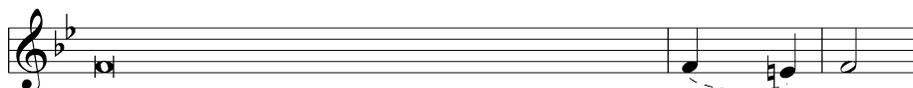
TE DEUM: We Praise You, O God



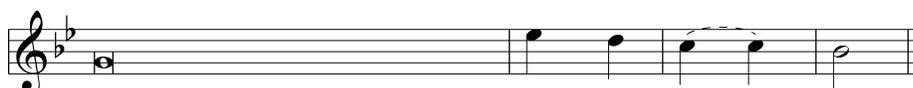
- 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
- 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
- 3 The noble army of martyrs praise— You.



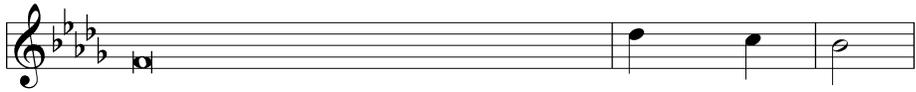
- 1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
- 2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
- 3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



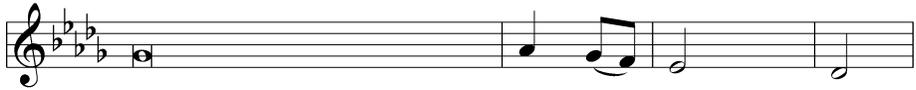
- 1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
- 2 The glorious company of the apostles praise— You.
- 3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
- 4 You are the king of glory, O— Christ;



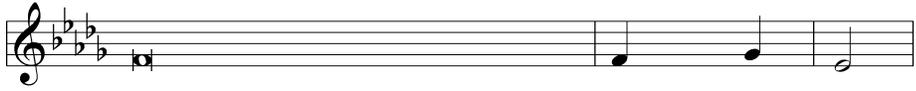
- 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
- 2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise— You.
- 3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
- 4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



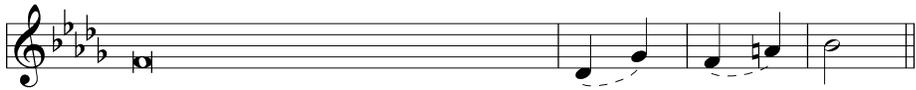
5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



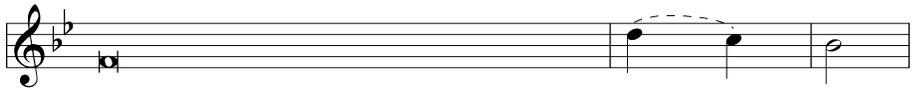
5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
6 We believe that You will come



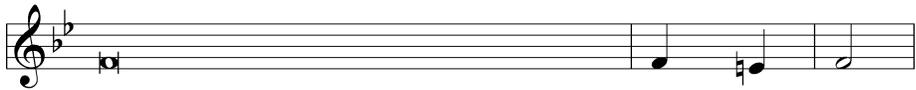
5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.



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 Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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 Obedience to the Word

P O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



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.



CLOSING HYMN: Salvation unto Us Has Come

LSB 555, sts. 6–10



6 Since Christ has full a - tone-ment made And brought to us sal-
 7 Let me not doubt, but tru - ly see Your Word can - not be
 8 The Law re - veals the guilt of sin And makes us con - science-
 9 Faith clings to Je - sus' cross a - lone And rests in Him un -
 Δ 10 All bless - ing, hon - or, thanks, and praise To Fa - ther, Son, and



va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad And
 bro - ken; Your call rings out, "Come un - to Me!" No
 strick - en; But then the Gos - pel en - ters in The
 ceas - ing; And by its fruits true faith is known, With
 Spir - it, The God who saved us by His grace; All



build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear
 false - hood have You spo - ken. Bap - tized in - to Your
 sin - ful soul to quick - en. Come to the cross, trust
 love and hope in - creas - ing. For faith a - lone can
 glo - ry to His mer - it. O tri - une God in



Lord, I plead, Your death is now my
 pre - cious name, My faith can - not be
 Christ, and live; The Law no peace can
 jus - ti - fy; Works serve our neigh - bor
 heav'n a - bove, You have re - vealed Your



life in - deed, For You have paid my ran - som.
 put to shame, And I shall nev - er per - ish.
 ev - er give, No com - fort and no bless - ing.
 and sup - ply The proof that faith is liv - ing.
 sav - ing love; Your bless - ed name we hal - low.

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

Thank you to everyone who drove by for Sam's Birthday Car Parade! That seems to be part of the "traditional" Quarantine Birthday Celebration, along with the obligatory video conferencing with family. It was all a bit strange (Have I said that before?) but was still a really fun time! We had a theme of "dancing fruits" because Sam's favorite YouTube video is of various fruits dancing to disco music!



This week we started watching the movie "Frozen." It's a movie about two sisters who grow up incredibly close but, as a result of an accident with magic, end up growing into adulthood almost strangers (don't worry though—it's a Disney film so it ends happy).

I had, of course, seen the movie before—before I had two children, in fact. Now I saw it anew. And I remembered last week's reading from Genesis Chapter 50 (the final reconciliation of Joseph and his brothers), I started thinking about



Leo and Sam. They have grown quite close. Leo *loves* being a big brother and helps take care of Sam and Sam absolutely *adores* Leo! I hope these boys stay close and remain best friends forever.

But this is not always the case (life is rarely like a Disney movie). A lot of siblings end up growing apart. Then again, I remember Joseph and his brothers . . . and, even though it took years, they were reconciled! They were reconciled by God's grace and mercy—a special and unique reality that is manifested most especially in Christians, not because of anything we do but because this divine grace and mercy is *poured into us* at Holy Baptism and the Spirit Himself continues to lavish these gifts upon us throughout our lives as He fashions us into the image of Christ, our Savior.

Division is the world's game . . . God's game is reconciliation by the blood of Christ! Remember what Jesus said, "Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself" (John 12:31, 32).

And, as always, I hope you'll make time in your day to 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 22.

- 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 night at 7:00pm** for a short (30-minute) **service of prayer and meditation** on the psalm. The service folder will be on our website (www.GraceLutheranElCentro.org) and the live-stream will be 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