



If you forgive others their trespasses,
your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

+ Matthew 6:14

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Forgiveness is filled with questions: How often must I forgive? Is there a limit to the grace of forgiveness? What is the connection between God's forgiveness to me and my forgiveness to others?

The answer to these questions is found in Christ. As our heavenly Father has forgiven us, so do we forgive one another in His name. This forgiveness is clearly and beautifully shown in the example of Joseph, who was sold into slavery by his brothers and then, because of God's mercy, forgave them. May God grant us His grace to do likewise.

Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebelaw

Pastor's phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor's email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

† MATINS †

OPENING HYMN: Entrust Your Days and Burdens

LSB 754, sts. 1–3

1 En - trust your days and bur - dens To God's most lov - ing
2 Re - ly on God your Sav - ior And find your life se -
3 Take heart, have hope, my spir - it, And do not be dis -

hand; He cares for you while rul - - ing The
cure. Make His work your foun - da - tion That
mayed; God helps in ev - 'ry tri - - al And

sky, the sea, the land. For He who guides the
your work may en - dure. No anx - ious thought, no
makes you un - a - fraid. A - wait His time with

tem - pests A - long their thun - drous ways Will
wor - ry, No self - tor - ment - ing care Can
pa - tience Through dark - est hours of night Un -

find for you a path - way And guide you all your days.
win your Fa - ther's fa - vor; His heart is moved by prayer.
til the sun you hoped for De - lights your ea - ger sight.

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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.

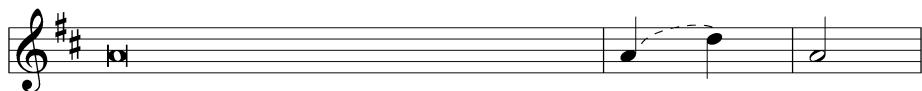
PSALMODY

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

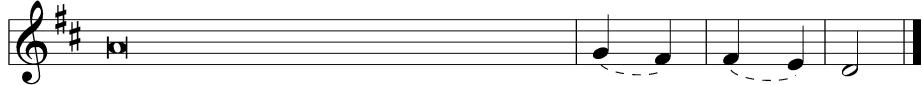
Venite

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.

Sit

OFFICE HYMN: I Leave All Things to God's Direction

LSB 719



1 I leave all things to God's di - rec - tion; He loves me
 2 God knows what must be done to save me; His love for
 3 My God de - sires the soul's sal - va - tion; My soul He,
 4 My God has all things in His keep-ing; He is the



both in joy and woe. His will is good, sure His af -
 me will nev - er cease. Up - on His hands He did en -
 too, de - sires to save. There - fore with Chris - tian res - ig -
 ev - er faith - ful friend. He gives me laugh - ter af - ter



fec - tion; His ten - der love is true, I know. My for - tress
 grave me With pur - est gold of lov - ing grace. His will su -
 na - tion All earth - ly trou - bles I will brave. His will be
 weep-ing, And all His ways in bless - ings end. His love en -



and my rock is He: What pleas-es God, that pleas - es me.
 preme must ev - er be: What pleas-es God, that pleas - es me.
 done e - ter - nal - ly: What pleas-es God, that pleas - es me.
 dures e - ter - nal - ly: What pleas-es God, that pleas - es me.

Text and tune: Public domain

READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 50:15–21

P The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, chapter 50.

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."

¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 14:1–12

P The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 14.

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

"As I live, says the LORD,
every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God."

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

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.

Matthew 6:14

Alleluia. If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Alleluia.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21–35

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²¹Peter came up and said to Him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”

²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.²³Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

²⁸“But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.

³⁵“So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C 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 Spir - it.



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

Sit

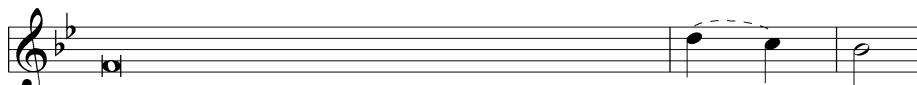
SERMON

Rev. Griebelaw

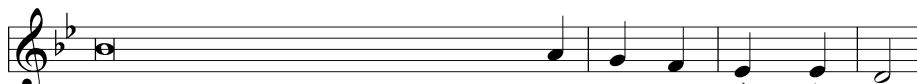
Stand

CANTICLE

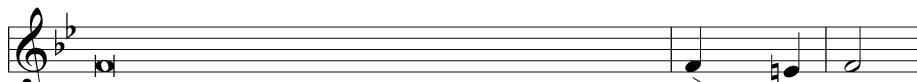
TE DEUM: We Praise You, O God



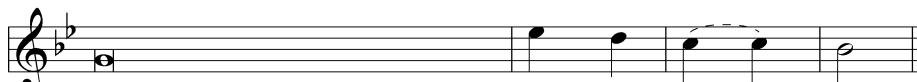
1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs praise You.



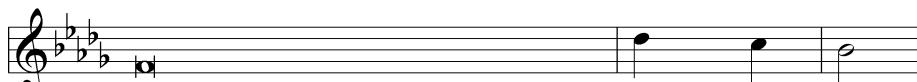
1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



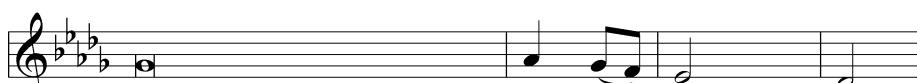
1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
2 The glorious company of the apostles praise You.
3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
4 You are the king of glory, O Christ;



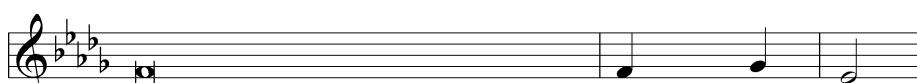
1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The goodly fellowship of the proph - ets praise You.
3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com - fort - er.
4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



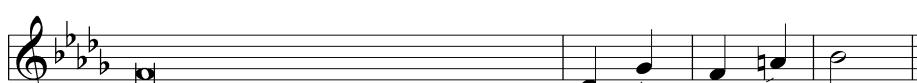
5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



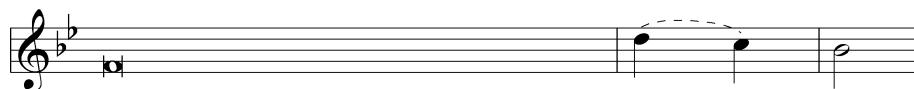
5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



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



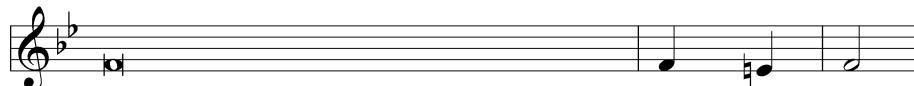
5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.



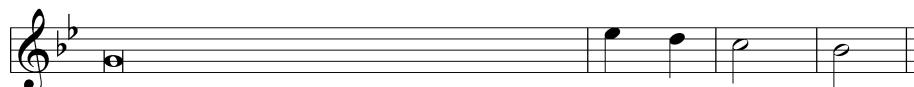
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - - vants,
8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - - out sin.



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



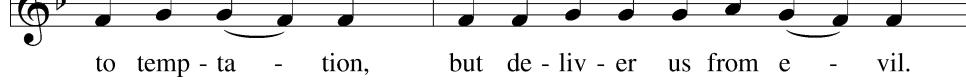
it is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly



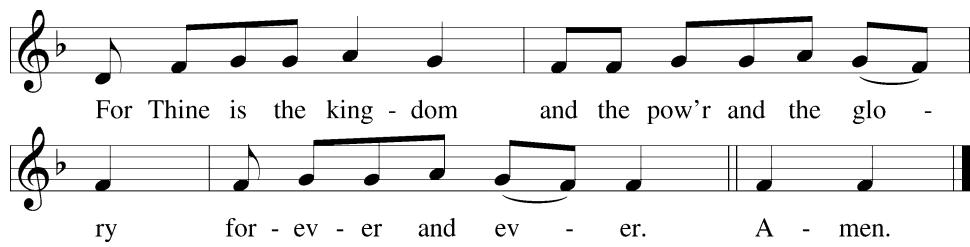
bread; and for-give us our tres-pass - es as we for-give



those who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in -



to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.



COLLECTS



P The Lord be with you.



C And with your spir - it.

Collect of the Day

P O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Collect for Godly Patience and Trust

P O Lord, give us an abiding trust in Your good will that no impatience or suffering of mind or body may weaken our faith in You. Teach us to say, "Thy will be done," and to accept Your holy and gracious will in all things. Out of the shadows of our doubts and fears, bring the light of Your great mercy toward us; through Jesus Christ, 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.



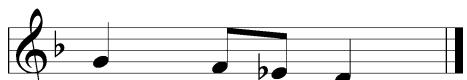
Stand

BENEDICAMUS

Psalm 103:1



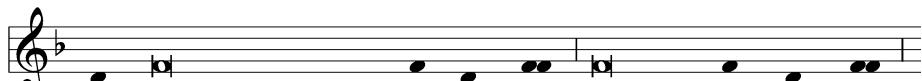
L Let us bless the Lord.



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: Entrust Your Days and Burdens

LSB 754, sts. 4–6



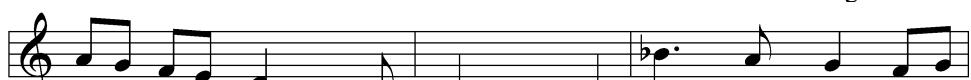
4 Leave all to His di - rec - tion; His wis - dom rules for

5 O bless - ed heir of heav - en, You'll hear the song re -

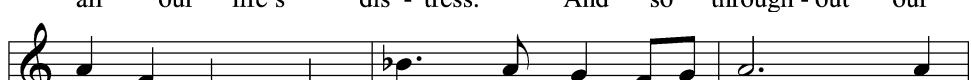
6 Our hands and feet, Lord, strength - en; With joy our spir - its



you In ways to rouse your won - der At
sound Of end - less ju - bi - la - tion When
bless Un - til we see the end - ing Of



all His love can do. Soon He, His prom - ise
you with life are crowned. In your right hand your
all our life's dis - tress. And so through - out our



keep - ing, With won - der - work - ing pow'r's Will
mak - er Will place the vic - tor's palm, And
life - time Keep us with - in Your care And



ban - ish from your spir - it What gave you trou - bled hours.
you will thank Him glad - ly With heav - en's joy - ful psalm.
at our end then bring us To heav'n to praise You there.

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**† SOLI DEO GLORIA †
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)**

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

Guess what! Somebody is having their FIRST BIRTHDAY this week! Happy birthday Sam!!!

Can you believe it?! Our little Sam is turning *one year old!* I sure can't believe it . . . but it's probably extra strange for y'all since most of you haven't seen him in person since he was only 6-months-old.

He's grown a bunch and is just on the cusp of proper crawling (he's still doing what Holly calls the "wounded zombie," meaning that he pushes with only one back leg and grabs ahead with one arm). And he's got a real appetite for food (fruit! veggies!)—not a picky eater like his big brother, Leo—thanks be to God!

And he's really coming into his own with his personality. Sam loves to smile and laugh, especially with Leo (whom Sam *adores* with all his heart). This picture was taken while Sam and I watched Leo playing with Hot Wheels cars (and I was trying to keep Sam from messing up the meticulous lineup that Leo was working on). In true little brother fashion, anything that Leo is doing, Sam wants to do, too! My favorite thing about this picture is that it looks like Sam and I are sharing an inside joke with our cat, Mr. Chan (he might have been sneezing but it sure looks like he's laughing).

I cannot wait to have all of you back at church (I hope that we can resume in-person services soon) and we can see each other again. It seems like Sam has gotten a little used to face masks so maybe he won't cry when you pop over to say hello. Of course, I wish Sam never had to get used to seeing mask-covered faces, and wonder if this quarantine will have any effect on his early cognitive development. But we're all going through this together and his schoolmates will all have experienced the same thing!

So while we remain #AloneTogether (as the hashtag theme for this quarantine goes), 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 21.

- 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

