



You are fellow citizens with the saints
and members of the household of God,
built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.

+ *Ephesians 2:19b–20*

THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 23, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

When we say Christ Jesus, we are appending a holy title to the God-Man Jesus: the title Christ is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew title Messiah, meaning “Anointed One.” Acknowledging Jesus as the Christ is central to our confession of faith. In using that divine title, we echo the words of the angel who spoke to the shepherds on the night of Jesus’s birth, in the field outside of Bethlehem, with the Gospel message, “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

We are blessed in knowing that Jesus, the Christ, is not only God in person in human form but that He is God for us. Saint Patrick poetically spoke his confession with the words “Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me.” Saint Paul says the same in Galatians (2:20): “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

As we confess Jesus as the Christ this day, we are joining with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, the saints who have gone before us to glory, as well as with all the faithful in every place in making the “good confession” and calling upon Him who is our Savior, for “there is salvation in no one else, for these is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor’s email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✠ MATINS ✠

OPENING HYMN: 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

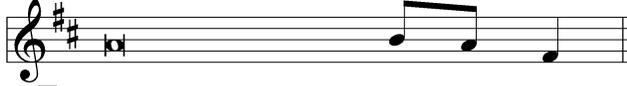
Stand

OPENING VERSICLES

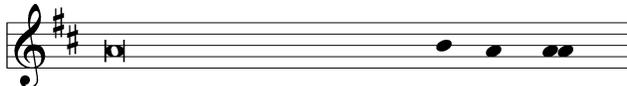
Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1



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



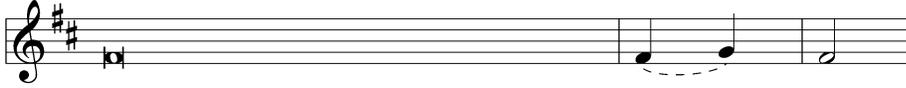
L The Lord has sanc - ti - fied us in the true faith.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

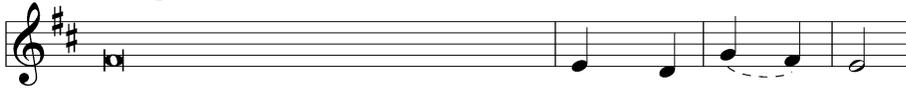
Venite

Psalm 95: 1-7



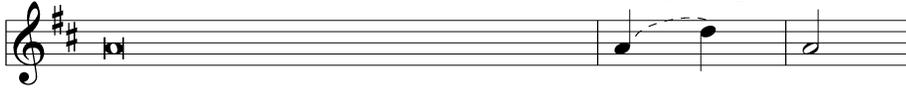
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great God
3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

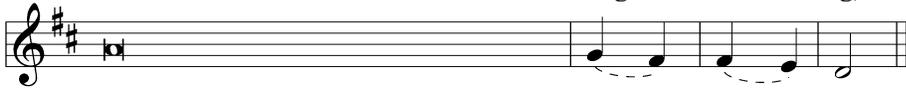


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
3 and His hand formed the dry land.

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: Built on the Rock

LSB 645



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when
 2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most
 3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His
 4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how
 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the



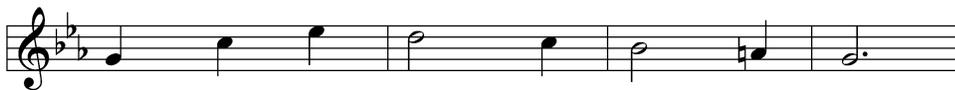
stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
 High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His
 own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
 God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's
 church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
 tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
 grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -
 sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives
 faith may come Where Christ His mes - sage is bring -



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
 ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove
 tion. Were we but two His name to tell,
 us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim
 ing: "I know My own; My own know Me.



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,
 Choos - es to live with us in love,
 Yet He would deign with us to dwell
 Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,
 You, not the world, My face shall see.



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
 Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.
 With all His grace and His fa - vor.
 And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.
 My peace I leave with you. A - men."

Text and tune: Public domain

READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 51:1–6

P The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 51.

¹“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him.

³For the LORD comforts Zion; He comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴“Give attention to Me, My people, and give ear to Me, My nation; for a law will go out from Me, and I will set My justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵My righteousness draws near, My salvation has gone out, and My arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for Me, and for My arm they wait. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but My salvation will be forever, and My righteousness will never be dismayed.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 11:33–12:8

P The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 11.

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!

³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the LORD,
or who has been His counselor?”

³⁵ “Or who has given a gift to Him
that he might be repaid?”

³⁶For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.

^{12:1}I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE



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

Ephesians 2:19b–20

Alleluia. You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone. Alleluia.



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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13–20

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



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

²⁰Then He strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that He was the Christ.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G 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 Spirit.



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

Sit

SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

Stand

CANTICLE

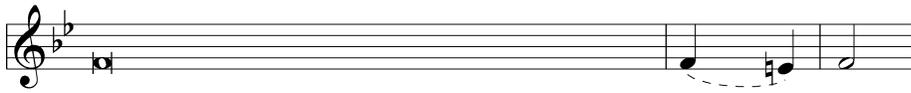
TE DEUM: We Praise You, O God



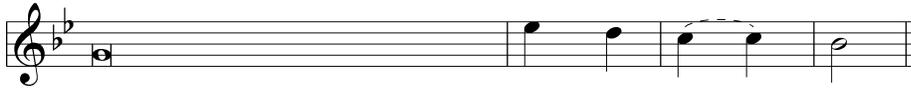
G 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs praise You.



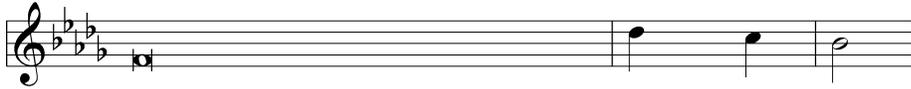
1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



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.



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.



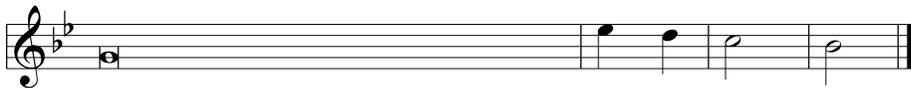
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,
 8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
 9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out— sin.



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 Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Collect of Adoration, Praise, and Supplication

P Almighty and eternal God, we adore You as the God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus, and with the whole Church on earth and all the hosts of heaven we ascribe to You honor and blessing, thanksgiving and praise. Holy, holy, holy are You, Lord God Almighty; heaven and earth are full of Your glory. You created us in Your own image and redeemed us with the precious blood of Your Son. By Your Spirit You sanctified us and called us out of darkness into Your marvelous light. Grant that we may with thankful hearts receive these great mercies and express our gratitude, not only with our lips but also in our lives as we give ourselves to Your service and walk before You in holiness and righteousness all our days. Deliver us from sin and error, from the frailties of the flesh, the allurement of this present age, and the temptations of the devil. Give us faith that works in love, hope that never disappoints, kindness that never fails, confidence in You that never wavers, patience that does not grow weary, and courage always ready to confess Christ, that we may live in Your mercy and die in Your peace; through the same Jesus Christ, 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.



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,

Check it out! Leo got a new car!

His face is aglow, not only with the excitement of a new Hot Wheels car but also with pride that he a) went poop on the potty and b) cleaned up *all by himself!*

Now, as you might expect for a little guy who is learning to use the potty, his efforts at self-cleaning weren't all that successful . . . but better than I expected!

That pure joy within him bubbled over and filled our house—it was contagious! It helped melt away a little bit of the stress and anxiety and worry that has darkened my heart since this pandemic began.

And with that brief respite, I was struck with a lightning-bolt of guilt: I am anxious and consumed with worry . . . and it makes me edgy, grumpy, and distracted.

That isn't fair or right to Leo or to Sam or to Holly, and it isn't fair to you, brothers and sisters in Christ.

More than being unfair, this is sinful, for it betrays a heart that does not fear, love, and trust in God above all things. **BUT I DO NOT SAY THIS TO HEAP GUILT UPON GUILT!** I say it as a confession, of speaking the truth to myself and to God. And, in so doing, to cast myself within His mercy and love.

In today's Epistle (Rom 11:33–12:8), Saint Paul tells us not to be “conformed to this world”—a world full of worry and anxiety, pain and fear—but to be “transformed by the renewal of [our minds].” Saint Paul also urges us “to think with sober judgment.” In other words, we call the thing what it is and hold fast to the Third Petition of our Lord's Prayer: “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

If you are struggling with the same stress and anxiety and worry as me, please know that you are not alone—and what we are experiencing is not strange or unknown by Christ! As true God and true Man, He has experienced every temptation known to man, even that of distrust and worry (Heb 4:15). Yet, He has overcome these and all other sins; in Him, we are forgiven and renewed. Thanks be to God!

And join me in 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, concluding by 1:00pm. This week we study Psalm 18. **Please do join me.**

- 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-minutes) **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

