



“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word,
and My Father will love him,
and We will come to him
and make Our home with him”

+ John 14:23

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 10, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

With the comforting words of our Savior that He spoke before His passion and death—now spoken in our ears as He is risen over death—our Lord increases our confidence in the truth of our new righteousness through His continued forgiveness of our sins.

In this Easter faith, we are more than prepared to face the challenges of living now as strangers and foreigners in this world—living as a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people for God’s own possession. These challenges may begin in a simple way in our daily living but also may increase as we endure in the faith. Consider how foreign the Christian worldview is becoming to the ever-secularized public square with the increasing confusion over issues like sexual identity, marriage, and even the fundamental concept of sin.

Ultimately, as we hear of the stoning of Saint Stephen, the first martyr for the faith, we come to realize that the confession of this faith—the confession of Christ Jesus—is a life or death issue for many even in our own day.

Regardless of the intensity of the good fight of the faith, we see our Savior Jesus come to deliver us. We see Him in the water of Baptism with His Word, in the body and blood we share at His command, in the authoritative and comforting word of Holy Absolution, and in His Word preached, as we wait to see Him come to “take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also” (John 14:3). Let us join all creation in praise to our saving Lord.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s phone: (760) 679-3699
Pastor’s email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✠ MATINS ✠

OPENING HYMN: Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom

LSB 481

1 Scat - ter the dark - ness, break the gloom; Sun, re - veal an
 2 Bear - ing the stan - dard from on high As the Lamb of
 3 Ban - ners of tri - umph, be un - furled! Trum - pets, sound through -
 emp - ty tomb Shin - ing with joy for all our sor - rows,
 God to die; He who for us, so cruel - ly treat - ed,
 out the world! Cry - ing and sighs, give way to sing - ing:
 Hope and peace for all to - mor - rows, Life un - e -
 Lives a - gain— our foes de - feat - ed! Where is your
 Life from death, our Lord is bring - ing! Let there be -
 clipped by doubt and dread: Christ has ris - en from the dead!
 sting, O death and grave? Christ has shown His strength to save!
 gin the ju - bi - lee— Christ has gained the vic - to - ry!

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Stand

OPENING VERSICLES

Psalms 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



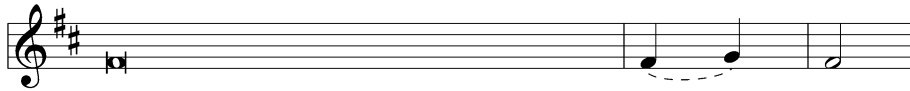
L The Lord is risen in - deed. Al - le - lu - ia.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

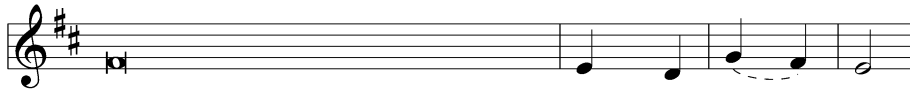
Venite

Psalm 95: 1-7



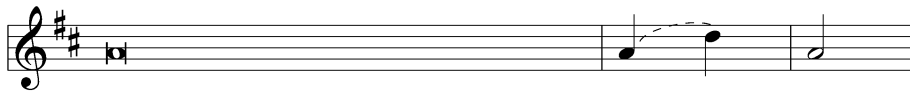
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great God
3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

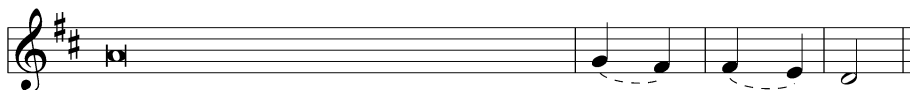


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
3 and His hand formed the dry land.

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 is risen in - deed. Al - le - lu - ia.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

The pastor and congregation chant responsively.



(antiphon) ¹Praise | the LORD!*

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;*

I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.

³Put not your trust in | princes,*

in a son of man, in whom there is no sal- | vation.

⁴When his breath departs he returns | to the earth;*

on that very day his plans | perish.

⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,*

whose help is in the | LORD his God..

⁶who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them,*

who keeps faith for- | ever;

⁷who executes justice for | the oppressed,*

who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; ⁸the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.*

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the | righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners; He upholds the widow and the | fatherless,*

but the way of the wicked He brings to | ruin.

¹⁰The LORD will reign for- | ever,*

your God, O Zion, to all generations. | Praise the LORD!

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.

Sit

OFFICE HYMN: Christ Is Our Cornerstone

LSB 912



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;

2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,

△ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His

And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til

Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.

that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.

pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

Text and tune: Public domain

READINGS

FIRST READING

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

^{6:1}Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

^{7:2}And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

⁵¹“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—
³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,
⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE



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

Romans 6:9; John 14:23

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Alleluia.



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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

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



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. ²In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.”

⁵Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.”

⁸Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”

⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know Me, Philip? Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own authority, but the Father who dwells in Me does His works. ¹¹Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.”

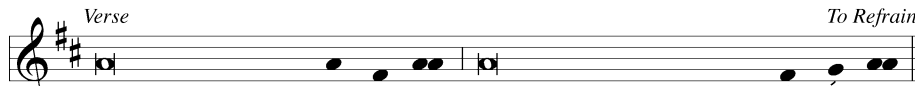
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

RESPONSORY: Easter

Psalm 96:2; Psalm 29:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:20



- 1 Sing to the Lord and bless His name, proclaim His salvation from day to day.
- 2 Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of them that sleep.
- 3 Glory be to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



- Give to the Lord all glo - ry and strength, give Him the
hon - or due His name. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Sit

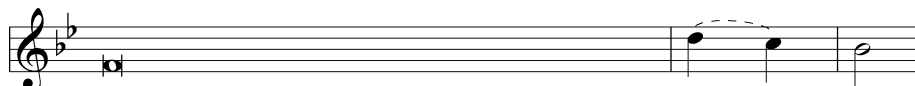
SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

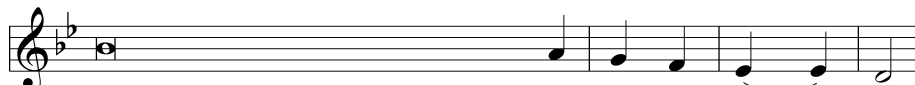
CANTICLE

Stand

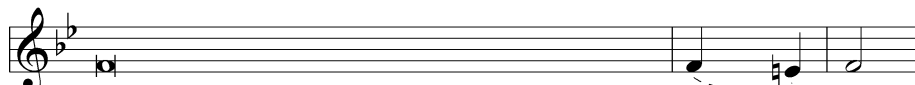
TE DEUM: We Praise You, O God



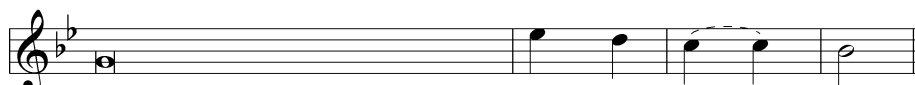
- 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
- 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
- 3 The noble army of martyrs praise — You.



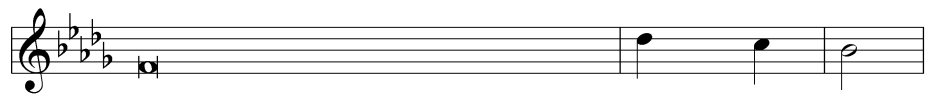
- 1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
- 2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
- 3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



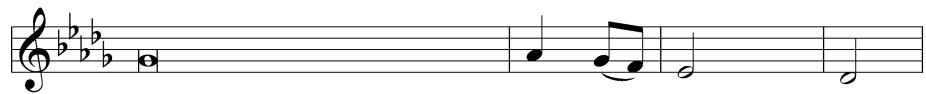
- 1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
- 2 The glorious company of the apostles praise — You.
- 3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
- 4 You are the king of glory, O — Christ;



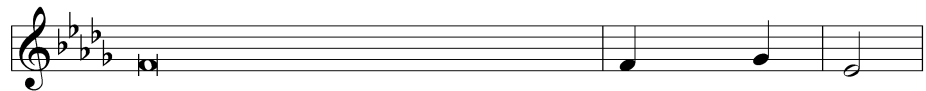
- 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
- 2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise — You.
- 3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
- 4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



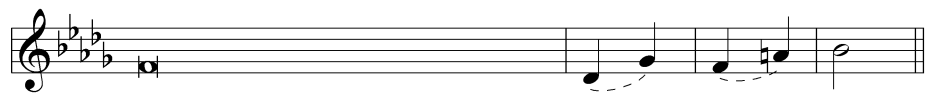
5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



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



☐ 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.

G And with your spir - it.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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.

Collect During an Epidemic

P Almighty God, heavenly Father, give us grace to trust You during this time of illness and distress.

In mercy put an end to the epidemic that afflicts us. Grant relief to those who suffer, and comfort all that mourn. Sustain all medical personnel in their labors, and cause Your people ever to serve You in righteousness and holiness; 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.

Additional collects may be prayed with the same form and response. The prayers then conclude with the Collect for Grace.

Collect for Grace

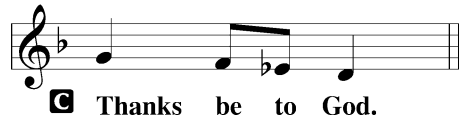
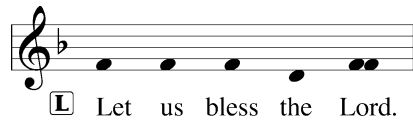
P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, 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

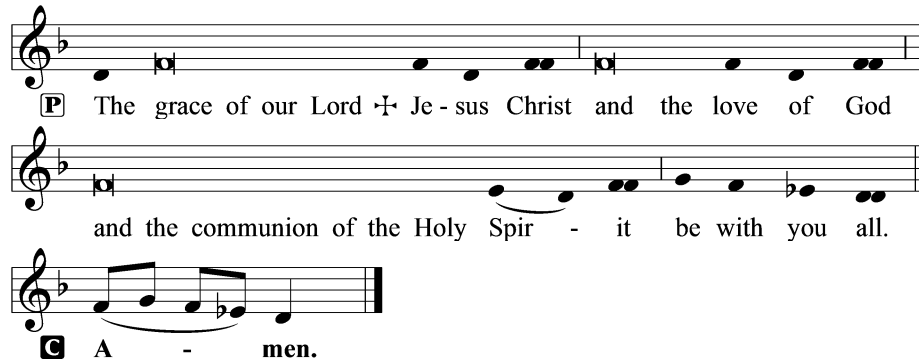
BENEDICAMUS

Psalm 103:1



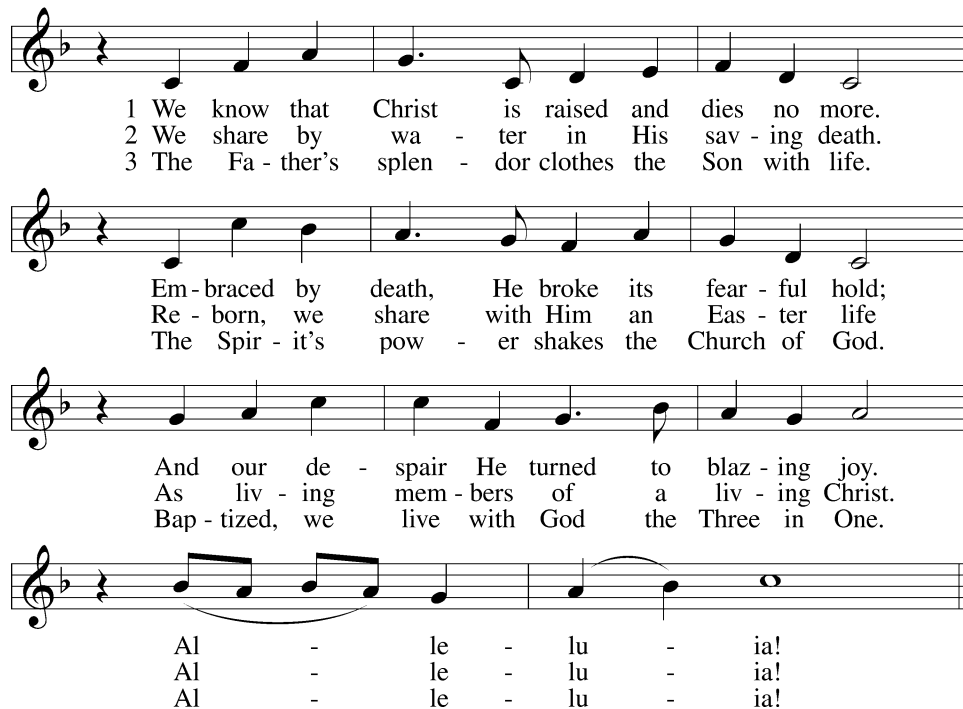
BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14



CLOSING HYMN: We Know That Christ Is Raised

LSB 603



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

Acknowledgments

Matins from Lutheran Service Book

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SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

Happy Mothers' Day!

It might not be a “church holiday” but it sure is an important holiday! Where would we be without our moms? Well, on the one hand, absolutely nowhere (you know, the whole “being born” thing). ☺ Then there is the rest of motherhood – the long days and nights of feeding, bathing, snuggling, caring for us when we’re sick, kissing our boo-boos when we fall, scolding us when we’re naughty, forgiving us when we say we’re sorry, and just being our safe, warm, and loving haven in this big, scary world.

So Happy Mothers' Day to *all our mothers!*

- To our earthly mothers, both here and our mothers in eternity!
- To our mothers at Grace, those dear ladies that are mothers to us in the faith!
- And to our spiritual mother, the Church, in whom we are “born again/from-above” by Holy Baptism, the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word.

As we celebrate Mothers (*all mothers* – biological, social, and spiritual), let us give thanks to God for all of these ladies and for this holy estate and vocation of motherhood!

Also, please join me on the “Zoom” platform for our **new Bible study on the Psalms** (this week we study Psalm 3). The study is **every Tuesday at Noon**. The first 15 minutes will be a time to catch-up and check-in to make sure we’re all doing okay. The study itself will start at 12:15pm and will wrap up at 12:45pm. We’ll then close with prayer and have a chance to say goodbye before 1:00pm.

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715> (no password needed).
- To join by phone, please call either “669-900-9128” or “346-248-7799” and enter 7603525715# when prompted.

And join me **each Wednesday night at 7:00pm** on Facebook for a short (30 minute) **service of prayer and meditation** on the psalm for each week (this Wednesday will be a meditation on Psalm 3). 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).

As always, I pray that our time together this day has brought joy, comfort, and the light of Christ Jesus into your homes. While we are apart from the Lord’s house, let us hold fast to God’s Word and earnestly study it each day, for it is written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we may have life in His name.

Lastly, while our physical gatherings are suspended, please remember that the work of Christ’s church continues. Please 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