

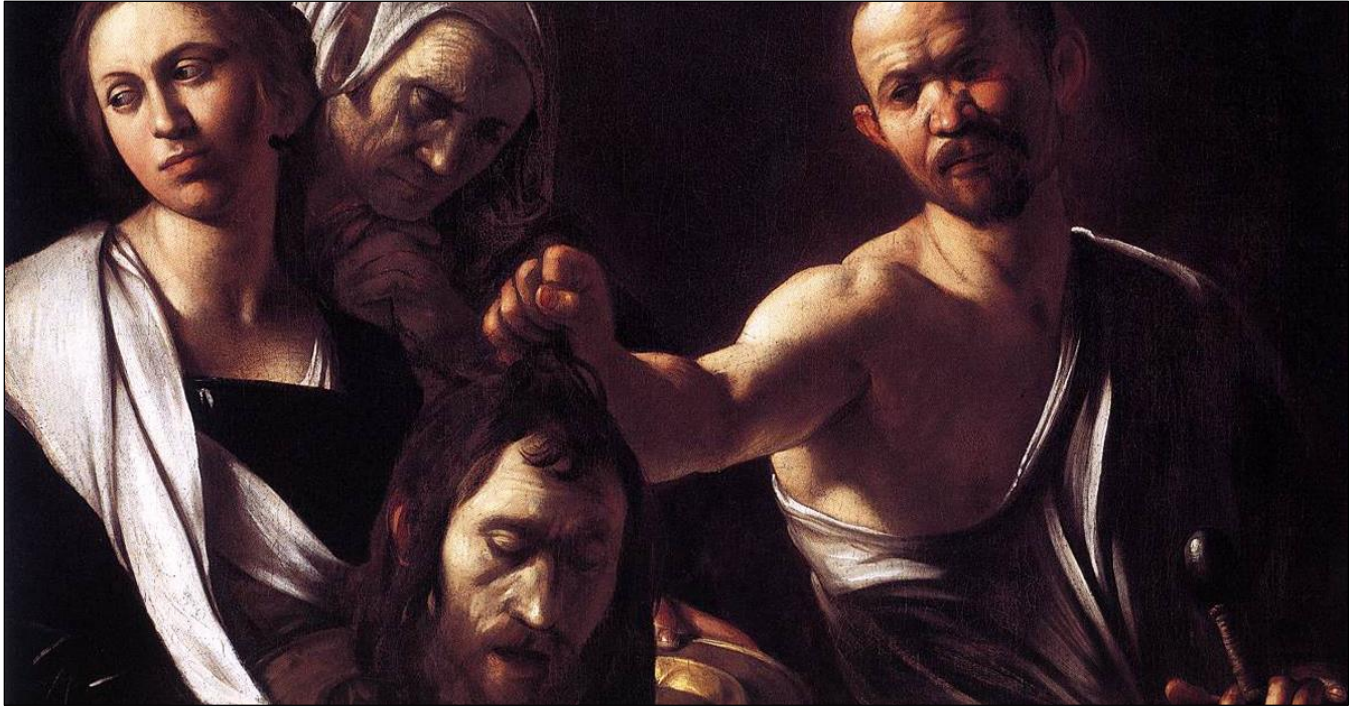


Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

+ *Matthew 5:10*

**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**July 11, 2021**



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In the Old Testament Reading, the prophet Amos, though previously a herdsman and dresser of sycamore figs, must speak, for the LORD has called him. His word of judgment is only part of the message; in other places, Amos calls people to choose the Lord and live, and also announces a great reversal. In time, Amos is driven violently from the Northern Kingdom where God had sent him to preach.

It is dangerous being a prophet, as John the Baptizer also experiences in the Holy Gospel for today. But we know the end of the story: before creation, we were destined to salvation, as Saint Paul tells us in the Epistle. Whatever we face, our faith tells us to listen to what the Lord has to say before paying attention to any other voice. “He will speak peace to His people” (Psalm 85:8). Thanks be to God for His speaking today in Word and Sacrament!

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor's Phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor's Email: [pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org](mailto:pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org)

## ✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

### HYMN OF INVOCATION: 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  
△ 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 – 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 143:1–2, 8a; antiphon: v. 11

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



*(Antiphon)* For Your name's sake, O LORD, pre- | serve my life!\*  
In Your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!

<sup>1</sup> Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!\*  
In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your | righteousness!

<sup>2</sup> **Enter not into judgment with Your | servant,\*  
for no one living is righteous be- | fore You.**

<sup>8a</sup> Let me hear in the morning of Your | steadfast love,\*  
for in | You I trust.

**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



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



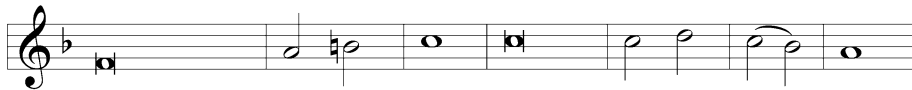
Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



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.



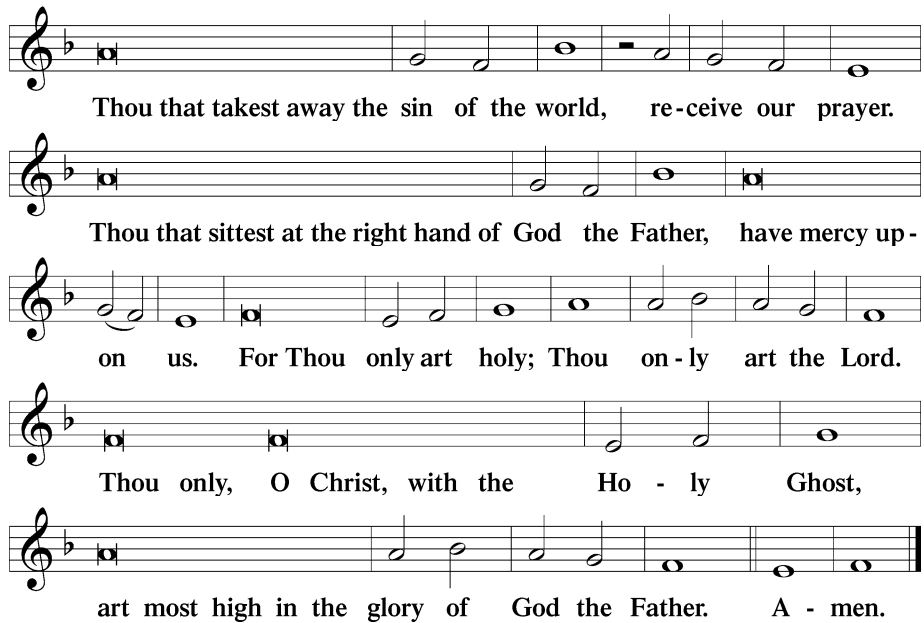
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



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.

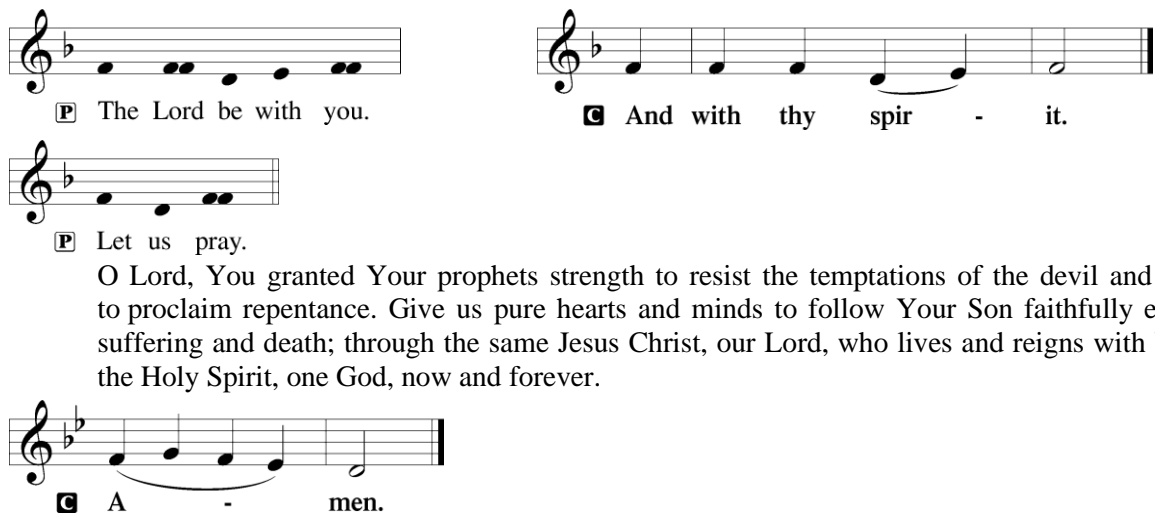
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

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.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, You granted Your prophets strength to resist the temptations of the devil and courage to proclaim repentance. Give us pure hearts and minds to follow Your Son faithfully even into suffering and death; 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.

*Sit*

**OLD TESTAMENT**

*Amos 7:7-15*

**P** The Old Testament Reading is from Amos, chapter seven.

<sup>7</sup>This is what He showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said, “Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of My people Israel; I will never again pass by them; <sup>9</sup>the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

<sup>10</sup>Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. <sup>11</sup>For thus Amos has said, “Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.”

<sup>12</sup>And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, <sup>13</sup>but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

<sup>14</sup>Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. <sup>15</sup>But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to My people Israel.’”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

Romans 11:33, 36

*The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.*



Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowl- | edge of God!\*

**How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable | His ways!**

For from Him and through Him and to Him are | all things.\*

**To Him be glory forever. | Amen.**

## EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:3–14

**P** The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter one.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup>He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, <sup>8</sup>which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup>In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory. <sup>13</sup>In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA & VERSE

Matthew 5:10



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

Alleluia. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.. Alleluia.

*The alleluias are repeated.*

## HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 6:14–29

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the sixth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>14</sup>King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup>But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." <sup>16</sup>But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." <sup>17</sup>For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her. <sup>18</sup>For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup>And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, <sup>20</sup>for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

<sup>21</sup>But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup>For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you." <sup>23</sup>And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup>And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." <sup>25</sup>And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." <sup>26</sup>And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. <sup>27</sup>And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison <sup>28</sup>and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup>When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## 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: Jesus, Priceless Treasure

LSB 743



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, Fount of pur - est plea - sure,  
 2 In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would mo - lest me  
 3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; Death, I now de - cry thee;  
 4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,



Tru - est friend to me, Ah, how long in an - guish  
 Can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,  
 Fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me  
 Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!



Shall my spir - it lan - guish, Yearn - ing, Lord, for Thee?  
 Ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.  
 Nor thy threats a - larm me While I sing of peace.  
 Naught to me thy sto - ry Told with tempt - ing voice.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer  
 Light - nings flash And thun - ders crash; Yet, though sin and  
 God's great pow'r Guards ev - 'ry hour; Earth and all its  
 Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my



naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask be - side Thee.  
 hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.  
 depths a - dore Him, Si - lent bow be - fore Him.  
 Sav - ior move me Since He deigns to love me.

5 Evil world, I leave thee;  
 Thou canst not deceive me,  
 Thine appeal is vain.  
 Sin that once did blind me,  
 Get thee far behind me,  
 Come not forth again.  
 Past thy hour,  
 O pride and pow'r;  
 Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,  
 Leave thee now forever.

6 Hence, all fear and sadness!  
 For the Lord of gladness,  
 Jesus, enters in.  
 Those who love the Father,  
 Though the storms may gather,  
 Still have peace within.  
 Yea, whate'er  
 I here must bear,  
 Thou art still my purest pleasure,  
 Jesus, priceless treasure!

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Rev. Doug 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 the Church, that the Lord would preserve her for His name's sake, in His righteousness and answering in His faithfulness; and for the testimony of Christ's Holy Word, opposed by the world, and for conviction and confidence in our confession that salvation is found in the forgiveness of sins through Christ Jesus alone, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the preachers God sends, that they would be bold to proclaim His Law against sin; for the work of the Spirit to humble the proud and bring them to repentance for the sake of forgiveness; for all who suffer while continuing steadfast in their callings, that God would vindicate them and sustain them; and that He would keep us all from despising His Word of correction, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the blessed estate of marriage, that God would cause chastity to be prized among His Christians and honored also in the world; for husbands and wives, that God would bind them together in love and forgiveness; and for parents, that God would equip them by His Spirit with every good gift to care for and teach the children He gives, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For our nation and its leaders, that God would spare them; for our civil servants and our people, that their conduct would be wise, just, and honorable in accord with the Lord's revealed will; and even for those who oppose God, that the Lord would be merciful to them for the sake of Christ, remembering that He desires all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all those in any need of body, mind, our soul, that God would lavish the riches of His grace on them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all who commune today, blessed in the Beloved, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, that as He has sealed us with the promised Holy Spirit, He would now strengthen us through Christ's true body and most precious blood, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.



*The live-stream 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** Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**C** **Amen.**

*Stand*

## BENEDICTION

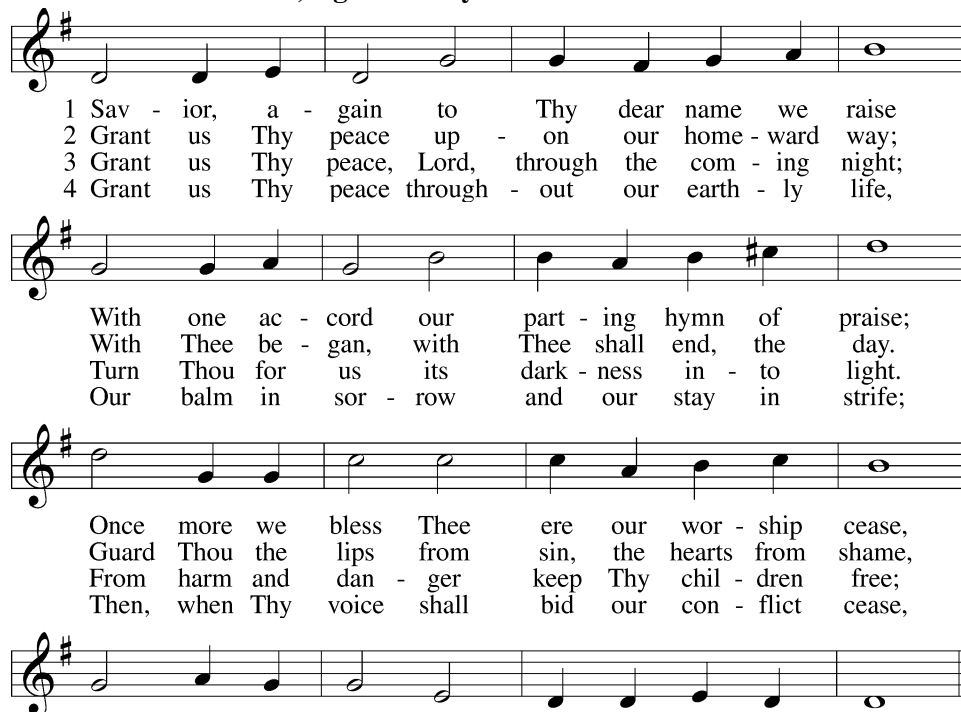
Numbers 6:24–26

- 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. If you desire to receive Holy Communion, please text/call Pastor (he is usually at the church for a while on Sundays).*

## 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,

As you might recall, I went on a retreat a couple weeks back with some brother pastors. I went to the Doxology “Take Heart” Retreat in Citrus Heights, California. The LC–MS Office of National Mission sponsored these retreats throughout the United States to give pastors respite, rest, and renewal as we emerge from the pandemic and the various challenges it posed (and continues to pose) to our churches. While the retreat was refreshing and memorable (I bumped a classmate and my dear friend Randy Wurschmidt who was the Kantor/musician for the event), I was quite enamored with the wild turkeys (pictured) that roamed the retreat grounds! I never realized how BIG turkeys are in real life (I only ever see the frozen variety at the supermarket).



Well, to keep me company on my trip, Leo lent me **THREE OF HIS PONTIACS!** It was quite a big thing for him to do (he **LOVES** his cars but wanted me to have them to remember him on my trip). He knows I love Pontiacs and I made sure to take pictures of his cars at various stops on my trip.

And Holly was quick to capture Sam’s reaction when I came home! I didn’t realize how much he had missed me (he never seemed upset when I talked to him on the phone) but his face lit-up when I came in the door! It was so sweet and I’m so lucky that Holly got a picture of it!



That Friday, we took a trip to the Imperial Valley Mall to escape the heat and wander around as a family. Much to my dismay, the large carousel that was in the food court has been removed (Leo and I only got to ride on it once). But the good news was that the ride-on cars were back in public usage (these had been taped-off during the height of the pandemic) and Leo was ready to ride!

It’s nice to see the pandemic winding-down (of course, there is still reason for caution, but I expect that the worst is behind us). So if you haven’t been coming to church in-person, I hope that you’ll begin doing so soon.

And if you have been coming, please stick around for coffee fellowship. We’ve been using the Keurig for coffee and I know it takes a little while for each cup to brew but patience is a virtue, right? LOL!

We are still holding our **study of the Psalms every Tuesday at Noon on “Zoom.”** Each study is self-contained so even if you have missed Psalms 1 through 47, there’s no need to stay away. Call-in or hop on your computer. I would love to see/hear from you as we study God’s Word and socialize. We are studying **Psalm 48 this week.** And then tune-in or come by for our **short prayer service on Wednesday night at 7:00pm.**

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

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
+Pastor Griebenaw