



The grass withers,
the flower fades,
but the word of our God
will stand forever.

+ Isaiah 40:8

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 12, 2020



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The motto of the Lutheran Reformation is “*Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum* (The Word of the Lord Endures Forever).” The letters VDMA were engraved in churches and doorways, on the banners, flags, and uniforms of Lutheran princes, and in homes of Lutheran families. It is taken from 1 Peter 1:24–25 where Saint Peter quotes the verse for today in Isaiah 40:8.

In the Gospel, our Lord Christ Jesus tells us how God sows His Word amongst the nations and where it takes root, there the fruits of faith spring forth according to His good and gracious will. Moreover, God declares through His prophet Isaiah that “[My Word] will accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11c-d). Thanks be to God that He has given us His Word, that we may hear it and hold fast to all His promises, especially His promise that we are His children who call upon Him in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks as we cry, “Abba! Father!”

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s phone: (760) 679-3699

Pastor’s email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✚ MATINS ✚

OPENING HYMN: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

LSB 655

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow’r make known, For You are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and

by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
 Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
 u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son And bring to naught all He has done.
 we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 strife And lead us out of death to life.

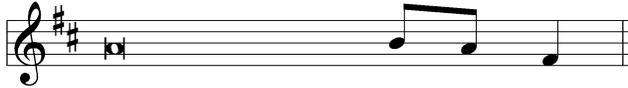
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OPENING VERSICLES

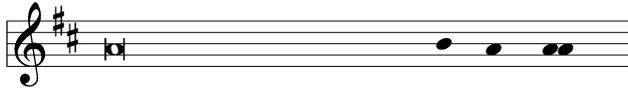
Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1



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 en - light - ened us in the true faith.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

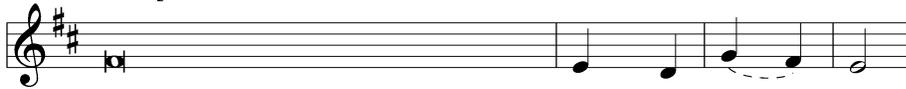
Venite

Psalm 95: 1-7



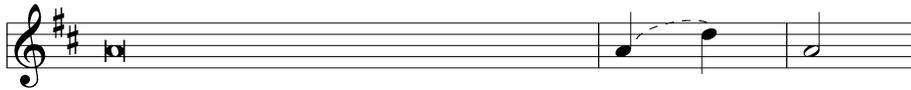
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great God
3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

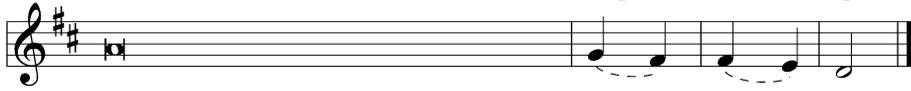


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
3 and His hand formed the dry land.

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 en-light-ened us in the true faith.



C O come, let us wor-ship Him.

Sit

OFFICE HYMN: Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

LSB 577



1 Al - might - y God, Your Word is cast Like
 2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe This
 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares The
 4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, Life -



seed in - to the ground; Now let the dew of
 ho - ly seed re - move, But give it root in
 ris - ing plant de - stroy, But let it yield a
 giv - ing grace be - stow That all whose souls the



heav'n de - scend And righ - teous fruits a - bound.
 ev - 'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.
 hun - dred - fold The fruits of peace and joy.
 truth re - ceive Its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text and tune: Public domain

READINGS

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10–13

P A reading from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 55.

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth;
it shall not return to Me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²“For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the LORD,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:12–17

P A reading from Saint Paul’s letter to the church in Rome, chapter eight.

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

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.

Isaiah 40:8

Alleluia. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Alleluia.



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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about Him, so that He got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And He told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

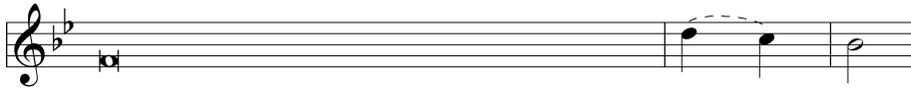
SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

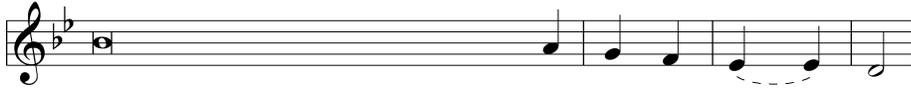
CANTICLE

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;



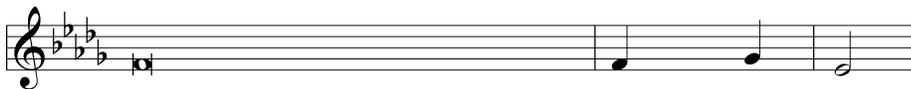
- 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise — You.
3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



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



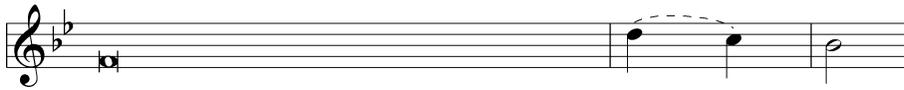
- 5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



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



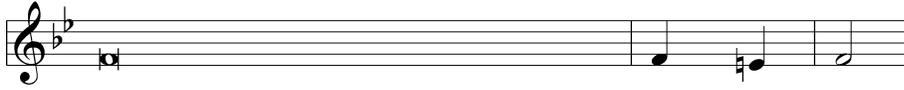
- 5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be — our — judge.



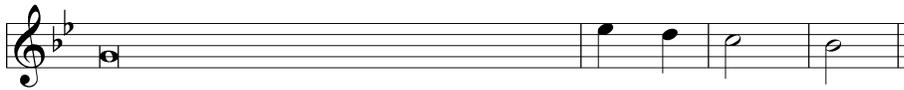
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,
 8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
 9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out _____ sin.



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.

C And with your spir - it.

Collect of the Day

P Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; 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 Times of Affliction and Distress

P Almighty and most merciful God, in this earthly life we endure sufferings and death before we enter into eternal glory. Grant us grace at all times to subject ourselves to Your holy will and to continue steadfast in the true faith to the end of our lives that we may know the peace and joy of the blessed hope of the resurrection of the dead and of the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

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.

C A - men.

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: On What Has Now Been Sown

LSB 921



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

Text and tune: Public domain

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

I can't believe that a week ago was Independence Day. Actually, I can't believe it's already July!

It's hard to believe that it has been sixteen weeks since the first stay-at-home order was issued. There was a certain benefit to having so much time at home . . . but even "honey-do" lists are finite and the novelty of this whole quarantine has long since worn off. Now it seems to have become a game of endurance—how long can we keep ourselves from going absolutely stir-crazy!

And that got me thinking about hobbies. Back in Colorado, I used to play in a symphony orchestra with my brother (we both played the upright bass). I also used to golf (though it has been a solid decade since I last played). And during my studies at seminary I became something of an avid reader (not just all the theological texts for classes but also my favorite genre of science fiction). And, of course, *I love playing video games!* My favorites are role-playing games, especially those where the object of the game is exploration and discovery (basically, just being Captain Kirk).

But then came the slow realization that I don't really have any hobbies at present (at least none that I'm pursuing actively). I could blame it on being a father of young children; while there is some truth to that (kids take a lot of time and attention, care and love), I can't just lay the blame on Leo or Sam. Or I could blame it on the Office of the Ministry; again, some truth to it but I can't just blame the church.

No; the truth is that I have neglected to *take the time* to pursue hobbies—things that take us away from the daily grind and allow us to exercise different skills and patterns of thinking (and often freeing our minds to approach daily challenges with fresh perspective). So I have resolved to eke out a little time for some self-care and indulge in reading some science fiction or escaping to the digital adventures of my PlayStation 4.

Likewise, I encourage you to pick up one of your long-neglected hobbies or take up something new! You might just find a spark of excitement or joyful anticipation that has been missing or at least subdued in the midst of this epidemic with all its ever-present fear and anxiety and confusion.

Just as it is easy to neglect a hobby, it's also easy to neglect the study of God's Word. But I can help with that (cause, ya know, it's kinda my job ☺). So please 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, concluding by 1:00pm. This week we study Psalm 12.

- 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