



The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
He gathers the outcasts of Israel.
He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

+ *Psalm 147: 2–3*

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 16, 2020



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The earthly ministry of Jesus, for the most part, took place in a restricted geographical area. For the three years of His public work, He traveled in the area of Judea and Galilee with a singular sojourn through Samaria.

However, in today's Gospel reading today, He goes beyond the familiar boundaries to the north, to the district of Tyre and Sidon, in modern-day Lebanon. He meets a Canaanite woman, a person seen as a Gentile and judged by the Jews of Jesus' home region to be inferior. She seeks the mercy of God and Jesus heals her daughter.

The love of Jesus breaks down barriers and crosses the divides of this world, both the secular divisions of our world and, more importantly, the great divide wrought forth by humanity's fall into sin. As people who have been sought out by Jesus, we, too, seek to extend His love as the Holy Spirit works in and through us.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor's phone:
(760) 679-3699

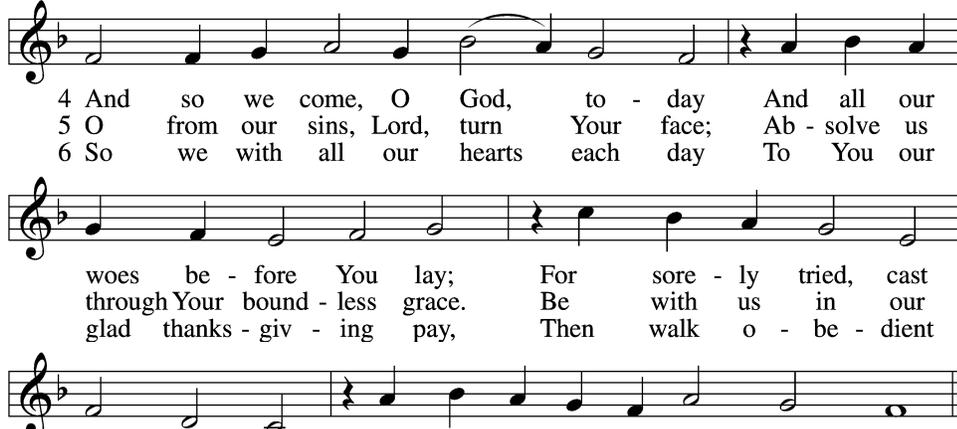
Pastor's email:
pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

"The Canaanite Woman" manuscript illustration in *Les Très Riches Heures du duc de Berry*, Folio 164r, Public Domain

✠ MATINS ✠

OPENING HYMN: When in the Hour of Deepest Need

LSB 615, sts. 4-6



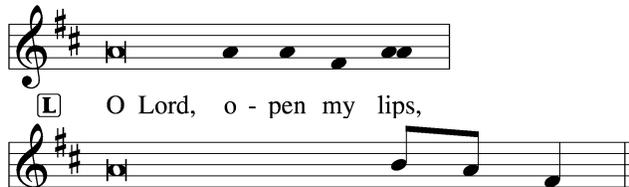
4 And so we come, O God, to - day And all our
5 O from our sins, Lord, turn Your face; Ab - solve us
6 So we with all our hearts each day To You our
woes be - fore You lay; For sore - ly tried, cast
through Your bound - less grace. Be with us in our
glad thanks - giv - ing pay, Then walk o - be - dient
down, we stand, Per - plexed by fears on ev - 'ry hand.
an - guish still; Free us at last from ev - 'ry ill.
to Your Word, And now and ev - er praise You, Lord.

Text and tune: Public domain

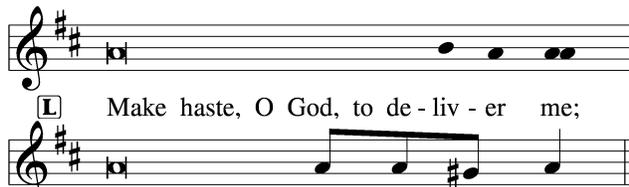
Stand

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



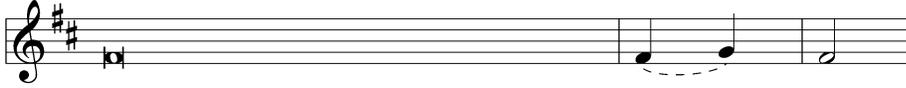
L The Lord has sanc - ti - fied us in the true faith.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

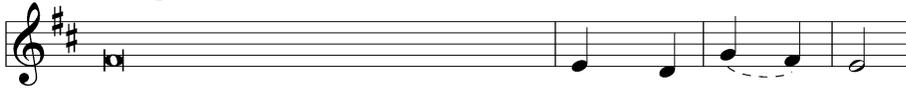
Venite

Psalm 95: 1-7



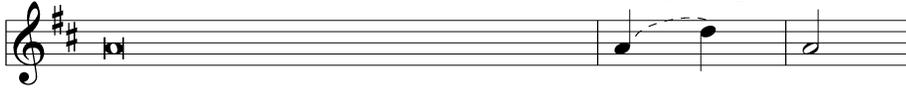
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great God
3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

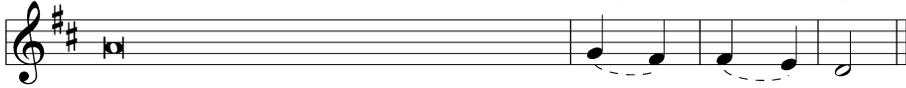


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
3 and His hand formed the dry land.

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: When in the Hour of Deepest Need

LSB 615, sts. 1-3



1 When in the hour of deep - est need We know not
2 Then is our com - fort this a - lone That we may
3 For You have prom - ised, Lord, to heed Your chil - dren's



where to look for aid; When days and nights of
meet be - fore Your throne; To You, O faith - ful
cries in time of need Through Him whose name a -



anx - ious thought No help or coun - sel yet have brought,
God, we cry For res - cue in our mis - er - y.
lone is great, Our Sav - ior and our ad - vo - cate.

Text and tune: Public domain

READINGS

FIRST READING

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

P The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 56.

¹Thus says the LORD: “Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon My salvation will come, and My deliverance be revealed. . . .

⁶“And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to Him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be His servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast My covenant—⁷these I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

⁸The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, “I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32

P The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 11.

¹I ask, then, has God rejected His people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. . . .

¹³Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? . . .

²⁸As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. ³²For God has consigned all to disobedience, that He may have mercy on all.

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.

Psalm 147:2-3

Alleluia. The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Alleluia.



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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 15:21-28

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



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²¹Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon."

²³But He did not answer her a word.

And His disciples came and begged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us."

²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

²⁵But she came and knelt before Him, saying, "Lord, help me."

²⁶And He answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire."

And her daughter was healed instantly.

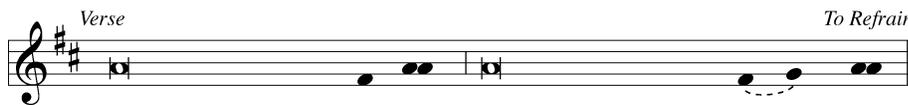
This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

RESPONSORY

Psalm 119:89; 26:8; Luke 11:28



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.



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

Sit

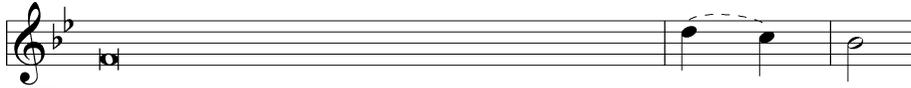
SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

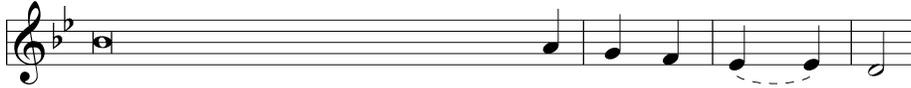
Stand

CANTICLE

TE DEUM: We Praise You, O God



- 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



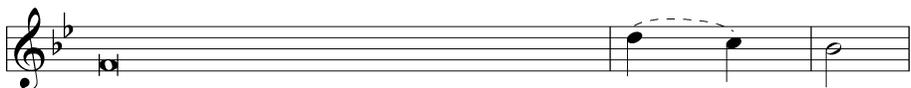
- 5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



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



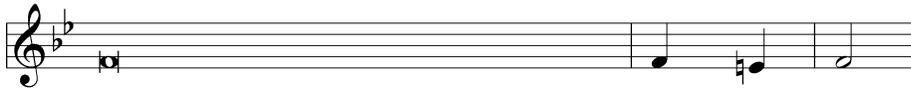
- 5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be — our — judge.



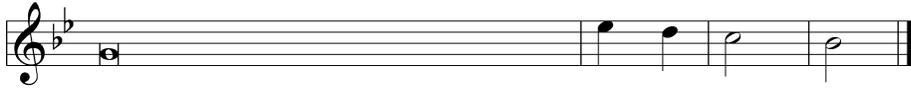
- 7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,
8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out — sin.



- 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 Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; 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 Thanksgiving and Bestowal of Grace

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we, Your unworthy servants, give You humble and hearty thanks for all the goodness and loving-kindness that You bestow on us. We praise You for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life. But above all, we bless You for Your boundless love in the redemption of the world by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. We implore You to give us a right understanding of all Your mercies that our hearts may ever be deeply thankful and that we may show forth Your praise with both our lips and our lives. Direct our lives in ways of holiness and righteousness all our days that we may enjoy the testimony of a good conscience and the hope of Your favor, be sustained and comforted in every time of trouble, and finally be received into Your everlasting kingdom; through Christ Jesus, Your Son, 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

Psalms 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: May God Bestow on Us His Grace

LSB 824

1 May God be - stow on us His grace, With bless - ings rich pro -
 2 Thine o - ver all shall be the praise And thanks of ev - 'ry
 △ 3 O let the peo - ple praise Thy worth, In all good works in -
 vide us; And may the bright - ness of His face
 na - tion; And all the world with joy shall raise
 creas - ing; The land shall plen - teous fruit bring forth,
 To life e - ter - nal guide us, That we His sav - ing
 The voice of ex - ul - ta - tion. For Thou shalt judge the
 Thy Word is rich in bless - ing. May God the Fa - ther,
 health may know, His gra - cious will and plea - sure,
 earth, O Lord, Nor suf - fer sin to flour - ish;
 God the Son, And God the Spir - it bless us!
 And al - so to the na - tions show Christ's rich - es with - out
 Thy peo - ple's pas - ture is Thy Word Their souls to feed and
 Let all the world praise Him a - lone, Let sol - emn awe pos -
 mea - sure And un - to God con - vert them.
 nour - ish, In righ - teous paths to keep them.
 sess us. Now let our hearts say, "A - men!"

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

Each Saturday night, a rather daunting feeling comes upon me, mixed with dread and fear. I'm talking about the feeling (or expectation?) that tomorrow morning I must be "brilliant" and "insightful" and reveal to you some amazing, reality-changing truth in my sermon and this "final thoughts" letter.

The reality is that I will never do this (remember last week's letter about unfair expectations?). And even though a sermon or some part of a pastor's letter does reach you and touch you in some way *that has nothing to do with me . . . and everything to do with the God's grace and mercy!*

Just as we confess in the explanation to the Third Article of the Apostle's Creed, that "[we] cannot by [our] own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, [our] Lord, or come to Him," so also are we wholly incapable of fulfilling *any aspect* of our Christian lives and vocations apart from the Holy Spirit.

Consider the vocations that God has given you: have you been the perfect parent . . . the perfect son or daughter . . . the perfect husband or wife . . . the perfect boss or employee . . . the perfect Christian?

We are, every one of us, "poor, miserable sinners" in need of God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness. And we are also, every one of us, a "new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17) and "His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).

So I leave you with a little wisdom from Proverbs (3:5-8): "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones."

I also invite you to participate 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 17. **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