

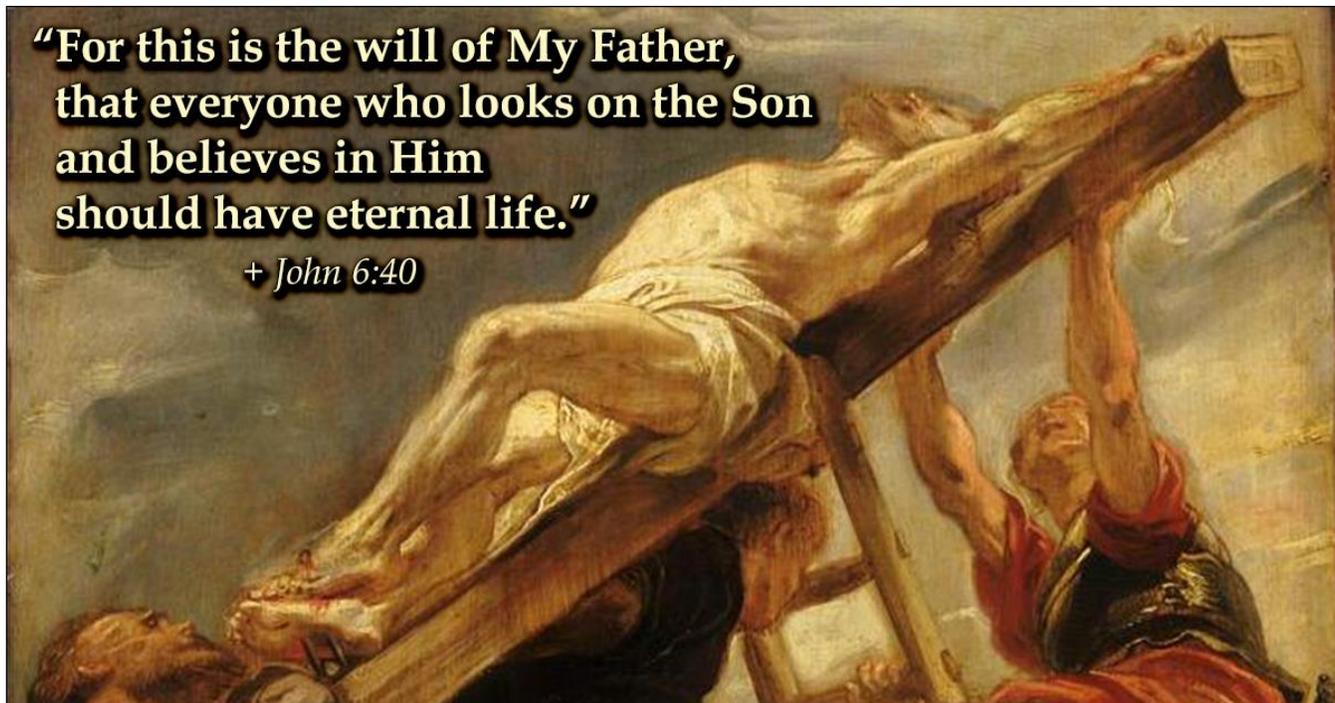


**“I am the living bread that came down from heaven.  
If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.”**

+ *John 6:51a, b*

**THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**August 8, 2021**



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Most food we make, purchase, and use has a shelf life. Some longer, some shorter, but at some point, we know goods expire (Twinkies might be the only exception, LOL). This is especially true with bread—when not used in a timely manner, bread dries out, hardens, and even molds.

How different is the bread that Jesus teaches about—the bread that is Himself!

Continuing in John 6, He teaches the people about what He came to provide: He, Himself, the bread of life. In our worship, in our reception of His Means of Grace, in our prayers and praise, and in our daily lives, let us rejoice in the Bread that lasts, the Bread that satisfies our needs of faith and forgiveness, so that we, too, may continually “taste and see that the LORD is good!” (Psalm 34:8).

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: Only-Begotten, Word of God Eternal

LSB 916



1 On - ly - be - got - ten, Word of God e - ter - nal, Lord of cre -  
2 Ho - ly this tem - ple where our Lord is dwell - ing; This is none  
3 Hear us, O Fa - ther, as we throng Your tem - ple. By Your past  
△ 4 God in three per - sons, Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, Son co - e -



a - tion, mer - ci - ful and might - y: Hear us, Your ser - vants,  
oth - er than the gate of heav - en. Ev - er Your chil - dren,  
bless - ings, by Your pres - ent boun - ty, Smile on Your chil - dren,  
ter - nal, ev - er bless - ed Spir - it: To You be prais - es,



as our tune - ful voic - es Rise in Your pres - ence.  
year by year re - joic - ing, Chant in Your tem - ple.  
and in grace and mer - cy Hear our pe - ti - tion.  
thanks, and ad - o - ra - tion, Glo - ry 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 34:8-10; antiphon: Psalm 145:16*

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



*(Antiphon)* You open | Your hand;\*  
You satisfy the desire of every | living thing.

<sup>8</sup> Oh, taste and see that the | LORD is good!\*  
Blessèd is the man who takes ref- | uge in Him!

<sup>9</sup> **Oh, fear the LORD, | you His saints,\***  
**for those who fear Him | have no lack!**

<sup>10</sup> The young lions suffer want and | hunger;\*  
but those who seek the LORD lack | no good thing.

**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.

Gracious Father, Your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Grant that Christ, the bread of life, may live in us and we in Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A-men.

*Sit*

**OLD TESTAMENT**

*1 Kings 19:1-8*

**P** The Old Testament Reading is from First Kings, chapter 19.

<sup>1</sup>Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.

<sup>2</sup>Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.” <sup>3</sup>Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

<sup>4</sup>But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, “It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.” <sup>5</sup>And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an Angel touched him and said to him, “Arise and eat.” <sup>6</sup>And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. <sup>7</sup>And the Angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, “Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you.” <sup>8</sup>And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

*Psalms 34:9, 19, alt.*

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



Fear the LORD, | you His saints,\*  
**for those who fear Him lack | nothing!**  
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous.\*  
**but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.**

## EPISTLE

*Ephesians 4:17—5:2*

**P** The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapters four and five.

<sup>17</sup>This I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. <sup>18</sup>They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. <sup>19</sup>They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. <sup>20</sup>But that is not the way you learned Christ!—<sup>21</sup>assuming that you have heard about Him and were taught in Him, as the truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup>to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup>and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup>and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

<sup>25</sup>Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. <sup>26</sup>Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and give no opportunity to the devil. <sup>28</sup>Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. <sup>29</sup>Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup>Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

<sup>5:1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA & VERSE

*John 6:51a, b*



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

Alleluia. I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. Alleluia.

*The alleluias are repeated.*

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 6:35–51*

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



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

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst. <sup>36</sup>But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup>All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never cast out. <sup>38</sup>For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup>And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that I should lose nothing of all that He has given Me, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup>For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

<sup>41</sup>So the Jews grumbled about Him, because He said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.”  
<sup>42</sup>They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

<sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me—<sup>46</sup>not that anyone has seen the Father except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”

**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  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread

LSB 625

1 Lord Je - sus Christ, life - giv - ing bread, May I in grace  
 2 To pas - tures green, Lord, safe - ly guide, To rest - ful wa -  
 3 O bread of heav'n, my soul's de - light, For full and free  
 4 I do not mer - it fa - vor, Lord, My weight of sin

pos - sess You. Let me with ho - ly food be fed,  
 ters lead me; Your ta - ble well for me pro - vide,  
 re - mis - sion I come with prayer be - fore Your sight  
 would break me; In all my guilt - y heart's dis - cord,

In hun - ger I ad - dress You. Pre - pare me well  
 Your wound - ed hand now feed me. Though wea - ry, sin -  
 In sor - row and con - tri - tion. Your righ - teous - ness,  
 O Lord, do not for - sake me. In my dis - tress

for You, O Lord, And, hum - bly by my prayer im - plored,  
 ful, sick, and weak, Ref - uge in You a - lone I seek,  
 Lord, cov - er me That I re - ceive You wor - thi - ly,  
 this com - forts me That You re - ceive me gra - cious - ly,

Give me Your grace and mer - cy.  
 To share Your cup of heal - ing.  
 As - sured of Your full par - don.  
 O Christ, my Lord of mer - cy!

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.

Philippians 4:7

**C** Amen.

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalms 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 pure proclamation of the Gospel throughout all the world, that false teaching and Satan's lies be thwarted and that many be drawn to the Father through His Son, Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For our congregation and all congregations in our circuit, district, and Synod, that they may be strong witnesses of the confession of faith, demonstrate the mercy of God, and live in unity of doctrine and love for the neighbor, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For pastors, especially those suffering from conflict, burnout, or depression, that our Lord would give them strength and courage through the example of the Prophet Elijah and all the saints who have gone before them, bringing them comfort through the forgiveness of sins and the promise of everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all Christian families and homes, that each generation may tell the next of the wonderful works of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For our nation, that all may live in harmony, neither suffering from want nor fearing from danger, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the sick, the suffering, and all who are in any need of body or soul, that they would never doubt that God hears their prayers and that the Lord would relieve their pain and in His fatherly mercy provide for them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who mourn, that they would be comforted by Jesus' words that He is the bread of life and that anyone who eats of this bread will live forever, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all who receive Christ's true body and most precious blood at this altar, that as we are reconciled to each other, we may rejoice to receive the Lord's forgiveness through this precious gift, and be strengthened in times of doubt and nourished in both body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Father of our risen, ascended, and glorified Lord, who has promised that those who believe in Christ as the true and living bread will never hunger nor thirst: By Your Holy Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith. Give us grace to live in our baptismal grace in repentance and forgiveness, and keep our eyes ever focused on the life eternal, knowing that You will raise us up on the Last Day; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who 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** Almighty and everlasting God, by the death and resurrection of Your Son You cleansed our hearts and put a new Spirit within us. Grant that all who are brought to newness of life in the fellowship of the body of Christ may show forth in their lives what they confess with their lips; 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: Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

*LSB 918*

1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious  
bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;  
stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar  
fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,  
Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,  
Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,  
Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,  
bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no  
strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and  
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to  
more; Feed me till I want no more.  
shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.  
Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.

Text and tune: Public Domain

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

## SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

We're off to visit Saint Louis, Missouri and meet with the folks from KFUA Radio! Sammy says, "See you in a week!"

Of course, this is all easier said than done. For as much as I HATE MOVING, packing for a trip isn't all that great either. Now, it wasn't always that way . . . no, it always has been a challenge BUT it used to just be MY STUFF that I had to find, wash, dry, fold, and pack away (all while trying to make sure I didn't forget anything which invariably did happen).

Nowadays, Holly and I are packing all of our stuff AND stuff for Leo and Sam—not just clothes but also stuff to entertain them during our drive to Phoenix and our flight to Saint Louis. Thankfully, Leo loves to fly! I hope Sammy will like it, too.



Sorry, Leo; your cars won't all fit in the carry-on . . . and, no, you can't "wear them" (see picture)!

Both Holly and I are anxious about the trip—Holly, being the one who really handles logistics, is worrying about the travel; for me, it's not so much the travel as the WHY of our visit: discerning God's Divine Call: Grace or KFUA.

All of the travel worries are really just small hills—the big mountains lay on the horizon. But if you don't lift your eyes, those small hills can feel like insurmountable problems!

Perhaps you have been facing down some small hills that look like mountains or maybe you have some mountains that you're climbing right now. Elijah was certainly facing some big mountains as we heard in the Old Testament. But we also heard of God's providence for Elijah and His patience with the downcast prophet. Elijah wanted to give-up . . . to curl up and die under the shade of the broom tree. Our first reaction might have been to shake Elijah—to give him a couple of smacks across the face and say, "Snap out of it!" (at least that's what folks do in the movies . . . I don't endorse slapping sad people across the face).

Instead, the Angel of the LORD comes to Elijah with food and drink—a warm meal to ease the aches of life and sooth the frayed nerves of fear (if it were me, I expect God would set before me some Cream of Wheat . . . that's my comfort food). And then God waited as Elijah took more rest under the tree, returning at last with another meal and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you."

It is as if God were saying, "You are trying to climb this mountain on your own—it is too much for you; rather, come to Me, strengthened with the nourishment I have given, that I, Myself, may be your strength and bear you up the mountain in My arms."

So, dear Christians, do not climb your hills or your mountains on your own. Rest in the Lord; let Him nourish you with His Word and Sacraments, strengthening you for the walk of this life as we journey to the heavenly Horeb.

Remember also that there is NO Tuesday Bible Study at Noon and NO Wednesday Evening Prayer Service. We'll resume both of these the week of August 15 when I return. And please continue to pray for me and my family as we continue to discern God's Divine Call.

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