



I will open My mouth in parables;
I will utter what has been hidden
since the foundation of the world.

+ *Matthew 13:35b*

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 26, 2020



The Parable of the Treasure in the Field by Caspar Luyken, 1708, Public Domain

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

You are a treasured possession!

Though you may feel grimy or covered in rust, dented and dinged beyond imagining, God knows differently. The *Old Testament Reading* begins by declaring “You are a people holy to the LORD your God . . . His treasured possession.” (Deut. 7:6).

Today’s *Epistle Reading* speaks the same: so precious are you that God “did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all” (Rom. 8:32).

And Jesus agrees! He tells you in the *Gospel Reading* that You are His treasure (Matt. 13:44); you are His pearl of great value (v. 46); you are the source of His joy even as He forsakes everything for you on the cross (vv. 44 and 46).

Remember this God bespoke truth when the enemy comes calling: “. . . [N]either death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate [you] from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38-39). Amen.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

+Pastor Griebenaw

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Pastor’s email:

pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

† MATINS †

OPENING HYMN: Praise the Almighty

LSB 797, sts. 1–3

1 Praise the Al - might - y, my soul, a - dore Him!
 2 Trust not in rul - ers; they are but mor - - tal;
 3 Bless - ed, oh, bless - ed are they for - ev - - er

Yes, I will laud Him un - til death; With songs and
 Earth - born they are and soon de - cay. Vain are their
 Whose help is from the Lord Most High, Whom from sal -

an - them I come be - fore Him As long as
 coun - sels at life's last por - tal, When the dark
 va - tion can noth - ing sev - er, And who in

He al - lows me breath. From Him my life and
 grave en - gulfs its prey. Since mor - tals can no
 hope to Christ draw nigh. To all who trust in

all things came; Bless, O my soul, His ho - ly name.
 help af - ford, Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
 Him, our Lord Will aid and coun - sel now af - ford.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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 en-light-en ed 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-en ed us in the true faith.
C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Sit

OFFICE HYMN: Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure

LSB 654

The musical notation consists of eight staves of music in common time, treble clef, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated with the music, appearing below each staff. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Your king - dom, O God, is my glo - ri - ous trea - sure,
2 Your king - dom, O God, is a - live with the pow - er
3 Your king - dom, O God, is a field for the grow - ing

My pearl of in - com - p'ra - ble worth.
Your Word and Your Spir - it be - stow.
Of seeds that Your mer - cy has sown;

Its val - ue ex - ceeds ev - 'ry stan - dard of mea - sure,
Like yeast, they af - fect the whole mea - sure of flour,
But still in our midst is the en - e - my sow - ing

Sur - pass - ing the wealth of the earth.
En - a - bling Your king - dom to grow.
The weeds that im - per - il Your own.

Lord, give me Your grace and the pow'r of the Spir - it
Em - pow - er me, Lord, as I live Your com - mis - sion,
Sus - tain me, O Lord, till Your day of re - turn - ing

To val - ue this trea - sure a - right
Though hum - ble my ser - vice may be,
And har - vest me home - ward at last,

That, nev - er al - lured by the world, I in - her - it
And bring ev - 'ry plant - ing to per - fect fru - i - tion,
To shine in the home - land that qui - ets all yearn - ing,

Your king - dom of glo - ry and light.
A mus - tard seed grown to a tree.
Where sor - row and dan - ger are past.

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READINGS

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

P The Old Testament Reading is from Deuteronomy, chapter 7.

⁶“You are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:28–39

P The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 8.

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

Matthew 13:35b

Alleluia. I will open My mouth in parables;

I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world. Alleluia.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44–52

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to Him, “Yes.” ⁵²And He said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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;

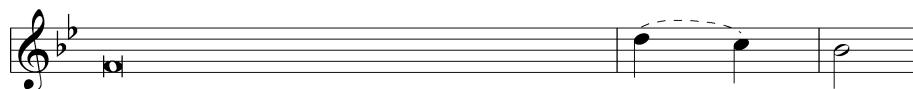
- 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
 2 The goodly fellowship of the proph - ets praise You.
 3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com - fort - er.
 4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.

- 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

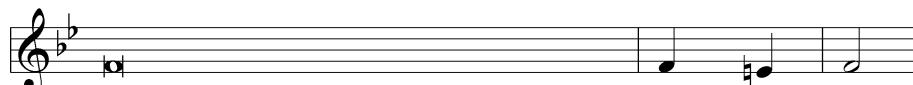
- 5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
 6 to be our judge.



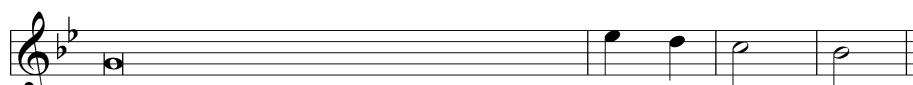
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - - vants,
8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - - out sin.



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



C 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,

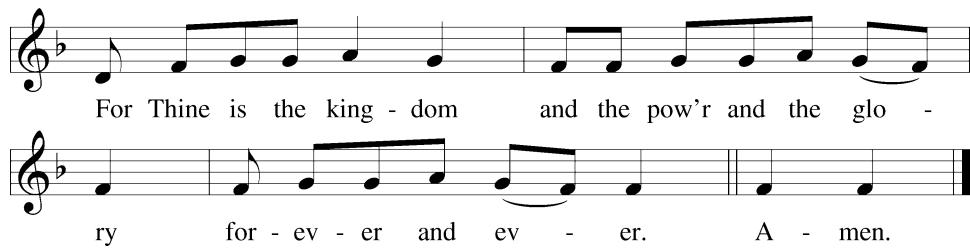
Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as

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.



COLLECTS



P The Lord be with you.



C And with your spir - it.

Collect of the Day

P O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Collect for Times of Affliction

P Look mercifully, O Lord, we implore You, on the affliction of Your people. Let not our sin destroy us, nor hopelessness overwhelm us, but let Your boundless mercy save us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



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

Collect for Grace

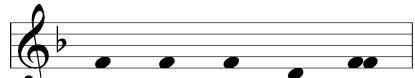
P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance,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



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: Praise the Almighty

LSB 797, sts. 1, 4-5

1 Praise the Al - might - y, my soul, a - dore Him!
4 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,
△ 5 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly

Yes, I will laud Him un - til death; With songs and
Par - don and peace from Him ob - tain; Ev - er the
Of Him who does such won - drous things! All that has

an - them I come be - fore Him As long as
wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, Their faith - ful
be - ing, to praise Him sole - ly, With hap - py

He al - lows me breath. From Him my life and
God He will re - main. He helps His chil - dren
heart its a - men sings. Chil - dren of God, with

all things came; Bless, O my soul, His ho - ly name.
in dis - tress, The wid - ows and the fa - ther - less.
an - gel host Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Public domain

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

Can you believe it!? It has been *four years* that the Lord of the Church has seen fit to have me as your pastor. This past Friday marked the fourth anniversary of my ordination and installation into the Office of the Holy Ministry at Grace. Wow... Just wow!

While milestones in life come at different paces, the four-year-mark fits with pretty transformative times in my life: from teen years to early adulthood (the four years of college), from amorous dating to life-long devotion (the four years the Holly and I dated before I “popped the question”), from layperson to ordained pastor (the four years of seminary), as well as being a dad for four years (Leo just turned four in April).

Well, now it has been another four years . . . and I found myself waiting for another feeling of major transformation. True, Leo just turned four years old and our family has grown with baby Sam but being a parent feels like every day is a whole new adventure with new challenges and ever-changing rules (almost like a transformation every four days, right?!). So what transformation was coming?

Ironically, the “transformation” seems to be the full-stop to normalcy! With mandatory stay-at-home orders and the forced cessation of in-person services, life in the church feels like it’s come to a halt and our normal schedules (both in the life of the church and in our personal lives) are gone.

I pray that this pandemic and “new normal” may not be something we all endure for four years (let alone forty years as was the case for God’s people wandering in the wilderness, eating manna and quail). *But what a transformation God had for them in that time!* Is He not doing the same for us?

While the scope of God’s divine plans are beyond any man born of woman (certainly beyond the reckoning of this pastor), I see one immediate transformation resulting from this time of discipline: throughout all the world, churches are coming into the digital realm *en masse* to proclaim God’s Word! And so many of these churches had never before been active online (nor had probably given it any serious thought) yet in the span of a few days, pastors throughout the world became televangelists!

Now, this is not to say that gathering together as the body of Christ is unimportant or even unnecessary (such claims are absolutely untrue and the forced cessation of in-person worship is tragic—I commend to you a wonderful article by Rev. David Petersen titled *The Church is a Building* for you to read at your leisure: <https://www.gottesdienst.org/gottesblog/2020/7/20/the-church-is-a-building>). I pray that we may return quickly to in-person services yet also remain active in proclamation online.

Speaking of online! . . . Please join me online or on the phone 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 14.

- 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