



The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the LORD'S doing,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

+ *Matthew 21:42b*

**THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**October 4, 2020**



*The Parable of the Tenants illumination in Codex Aureus of Echternach, circa AD 1030-1050, Public Domain*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The vineyard is frequently used in Scripture to denote a special place in God's creation. To have a vineyard and enjoy its fruit is a blessing. When the prophet Isaiah speaks of the goodness of the LORD, he says that God's favored people "shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit" (Isaiah 65:21).

Vineyards were planted with a fruitful harvest in mind. For the people of God, the entire year is a time of harvest. God has showered His gifts on His people and has made them ready for His eternal harvest. Indeed, we ourselves are the LORD'S planting, and we await eagerly our harvest home.

Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebenaw

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# ✠ MATINS ✠

## OPENING HYMN: O Love, How Deep

LSB 544, sts. 1–2

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
2 He sent no an - gel to our race,  
Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,  
Of high - er or of low - er place,  
That God, the Son of God, should take  
But wore the robe of hu - man frame,  
Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
And to this world Him - self He came.

*Text and tune: Public Domain*

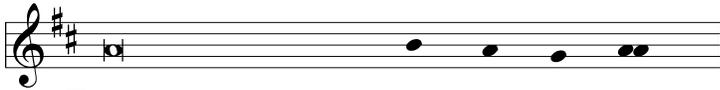
*Stand*

## 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**



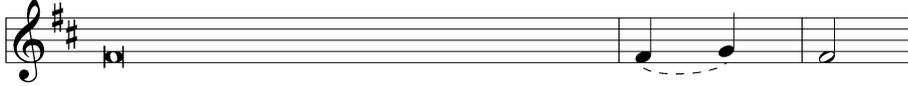
**L** Glorious is God with His an - gels and saints.



**C** O come, let us wor - ship Him.

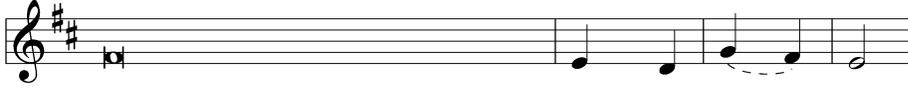
**Venite**

*Psalm 95: 1-7*



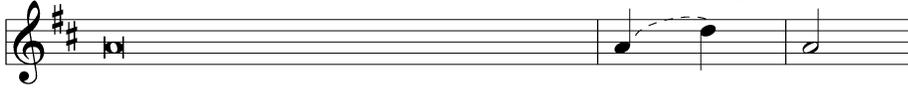
**C** 1 O come, let us sing . . . . . to the Lord,  
2 For the Lord is a . . . . . great God  
3 The sea is His, for He . . . . . made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and . . . . . to the Son

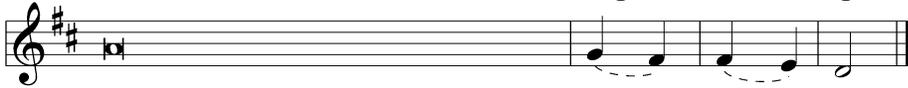


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.  
2 and a great . . . . . king a - bove all gods.  
3 and His hand . . . . . formed the dry land.

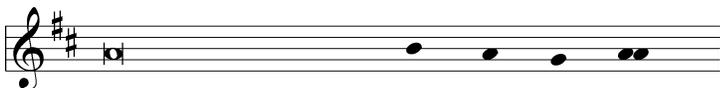
5 and to the . . . . . Ho - ly Spir - it;



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** Glorious is God with His an - gels and saints.

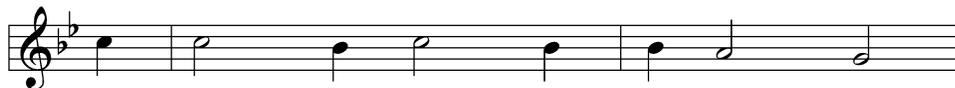


**C** O come, let us wor - ship Him.

*Sit*

OFFICE HYMN: O Love, How Deep

LSB 544, sts. 1, 3-5



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
3 For us bap - tized, for us He bore  
4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;  
5 For us by wick - ed - ness be - trayed,



Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,  
His ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;  
For us His dai - ly works He wrought,  
For us, in crown of thorns ar - rayed,



That God, the Son of God, should take  
For us temp - ta - tion sharp He knew;  
By words and signs and ac - tions thus  
He bore the shame - ful cross and death;



Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.  
Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.  
For us He gave His dy - ing breath.

*Text and tune: Public Domain*

**READINGS**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Isaiah 5:1-7*

**P** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter five.

<sup>1</sup> Let me sing for my Beloved my love song concerning His vineyard:

My Beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

<sup>2</sup> He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines;

He built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
and He looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

<sup>3</sup> And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between Me and My vineyard.

<sup>4</sup> What more was there to do for My vineyard, that I have not done in it?

When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

<sup>5</sup> And now I will tell you what I will do to My vineyard.

I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

<sup>6</sup> I will make it a waste;

it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up;

I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

<sup>7</sup> For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel,

and the men of Judah are His pleasant planting;

and He looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed;

for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE READING

*Philippians 3:4b–14*

**P** The Epistle is from Philippians, chapter three.

<sup>4b</sup>If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. <sup>7</sup>But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup>that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, <sup>11</sup>that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. <sup>13</sup>Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA & VERSE



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

*Matthew 21:42b*

Alleluia. The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes. Alleluia.



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

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 21:33–46*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.



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

[Jesus said:] <sup>33</sup>“Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. <sup>34</sup>When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. <sup>35</sup>And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

<sup>40</sup>“When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

<sup>41</sup>They said to Him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the LORD'S doing,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes”?

<sup>43</sup>“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. <sup>44</sup>And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>And although they were seeking to arrest Him, they feared the crowds, because they held Him to be a prophet.

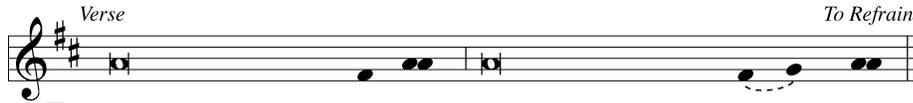
**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**G** 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 Spirit.



**C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

*Sit*

## SERMON

*Rev. Griebenaw*

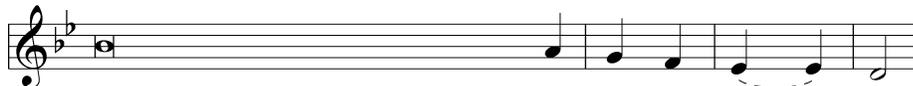
*Stand*

## CANTICLE

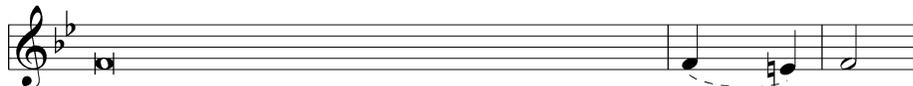
### TE DEUM: We Praise You, O God



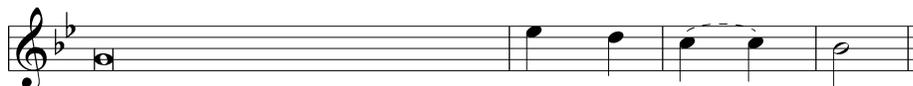
**G** 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.  
 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
 3 The noble army of martyrs praise You.



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.



**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, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness 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 Divine Guidance*

**P** Almighty and everlasting God, direct, sanctify, and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of Your laws and in the works of Your commandments that through Your mighty protection we may ever be preserved in both body and soul; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**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: O Love, How Deep**

*LSB 544, sts. 1, 6-7*

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
6 For us He rose from death a - gain;  
△ 7 All glo - ry to our Lord and God  
Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,  
For us He went on high to reign;  
For love so deep, so high, so broad;  
That God, the Son of God, should take  
For us He sent His Spir - it here  
The Trin - i - ty whom we a - dore  
Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
To guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

*Text and tune: Public Domain*

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

## SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

Well, I guess I shouldn't be surprised . . . Sam is already addicted to his cell phone (see picture)!

My first thought (after "I need to get a picture") was "Typical Millennial." But then I discovered that Sam is *not* a "Millennial" . . . or even a Gen "Z"! Both he and Leo are Generation "Alpha"—kids born between the early 2010s to the mid-2020s! But to me, every "young person" is just automatically a "Millennial." LOL!

At any rate, the family and I took a short vacation last week and spent the weekend out in San Diego. It was nice to have a change of scenery. We stayed in a hotel over by Liberty Station (the grounds of the former Naval Training Center San Diego) and it had a balcony where Leo would sit, alternately squawking like a seagull or saying "Hi" (repeatedly) to everyone that walked below.

Leo is a pretty social guy (he takes after his dad) and that has been the hardest thing about this quarantine—having to be separated from people! But the weather was perfect in San Diego and we got out to stroll along the beaches and through the parks (to Leo's disappointment, the playgrounds were still closed). We saw *lots of people* and we didn't feel quite so alone as we have been feeling.

We also saw *lots of cars* out in San Diego (I think we saw at least 100 Teslas)! But Leo's *favorite* was a Bentley (you can see the glint of joy in his eyes and posture when I was taking his picture with this "cool car")! Right after this picture was taken, the driver came along and Leo excitedly kept telling him "It's a Bentley!"

I know that I try to be insightful and "theological" with all of these "Final Thoughts" but this week it was just nice to have some "fellowship" with you through this letter and share a couple of my favorite pictures with you.

As always, 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, finishing by 1:00pm. This week we study Psalm 24.

- 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 at 7:00pm** for a short **service of prayer and meditation** on the psalm. The service folder is on our website ([www.GraceLutheranElCentro.org](http://www.GraceLutheranElCentro.org)) and the live-stream is on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranElCentro](http://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