



“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s
good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

+ *Luke 12:32*

COMMEMORATION OF THE REFORMATION

October 25, 2020



“Luther at the Diet of Worms” by Anton von Werner (1843-1915), 1877, Public Domain

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Martin Luther’s great hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” is based on Psalm 46. When the psalm was first written, it gave courage to God’s Old Testament people. Centuries later, when Luther wrote the hymn, the world was filled with plagues and death, and the devil was recognized as active in the lives of everyday people. Further, neither the Roman Catholic Church nor the government accepted the teachings of the reformers.

Now, in our day, we face cyber warfare, pandemics, terrorists, political polarization, and ecclesiastical division. Because of our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, we need not fear. Our gracious God is a very present help in this time of trouble. He is our refuge against the powers of the created world around us and the forces of evil from every source. From His throne flow streams of mercy to give us confident joy. We know that in the end “the kingdom ours remaineth.”

Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebenaw

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✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION: Salvation unto Us Has Come

LSB 555, sts. 1–5



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and
2 What God did in His Law de - mand And none to Him could
3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God His Law had
4 From sin our flesh could not ab - stain, Sin held its sway un -
5 Yet as the Law must be ful - filled Or we must die de -



fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They
ren - der Caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand For
giv - en That sin - ners could them - selves re - deem And
ceas - ing; The task was use - less and in vain, Our
spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled, Our



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus
man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those
by their works gain heav - en. The Law is but a
guilt was e'er in - creas - ing. None can re - move sin's
hu - man na - ture shar - ing. He has for us the



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
pure de - sires The spir - it of the
mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
poi - soned dart Or pu - ri - fy our
Law o - beyed And thus the Fa - ther's



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.
Law re - quires; And lost is our con - di - tion.
sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
guile - ful heart— So deep is our cor - rup - tion.
ven - geance stayed Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.

Text and tune: Public Domain

Stand – The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

Psalm 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 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 34:1-2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 119:46

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



(Antiphon) I will speak of your testimonies before kings, | [O Lord,]*
and shall not be | put to shame.

¹ I will bless the LORD at | all times;*
His praise shall continually be | in my mouth.

² **My soul makes its boast | in the LORD;***
let the humble hear | and be glad.

¹¹ Come, O children, lis- | ten to me;*
I will teach you the fear | of the LORD.

¹² **The LORD redeems the life of His | servants;***
none of those who take refuge in Him will | be condemned.



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

The antiphon is repeated.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47



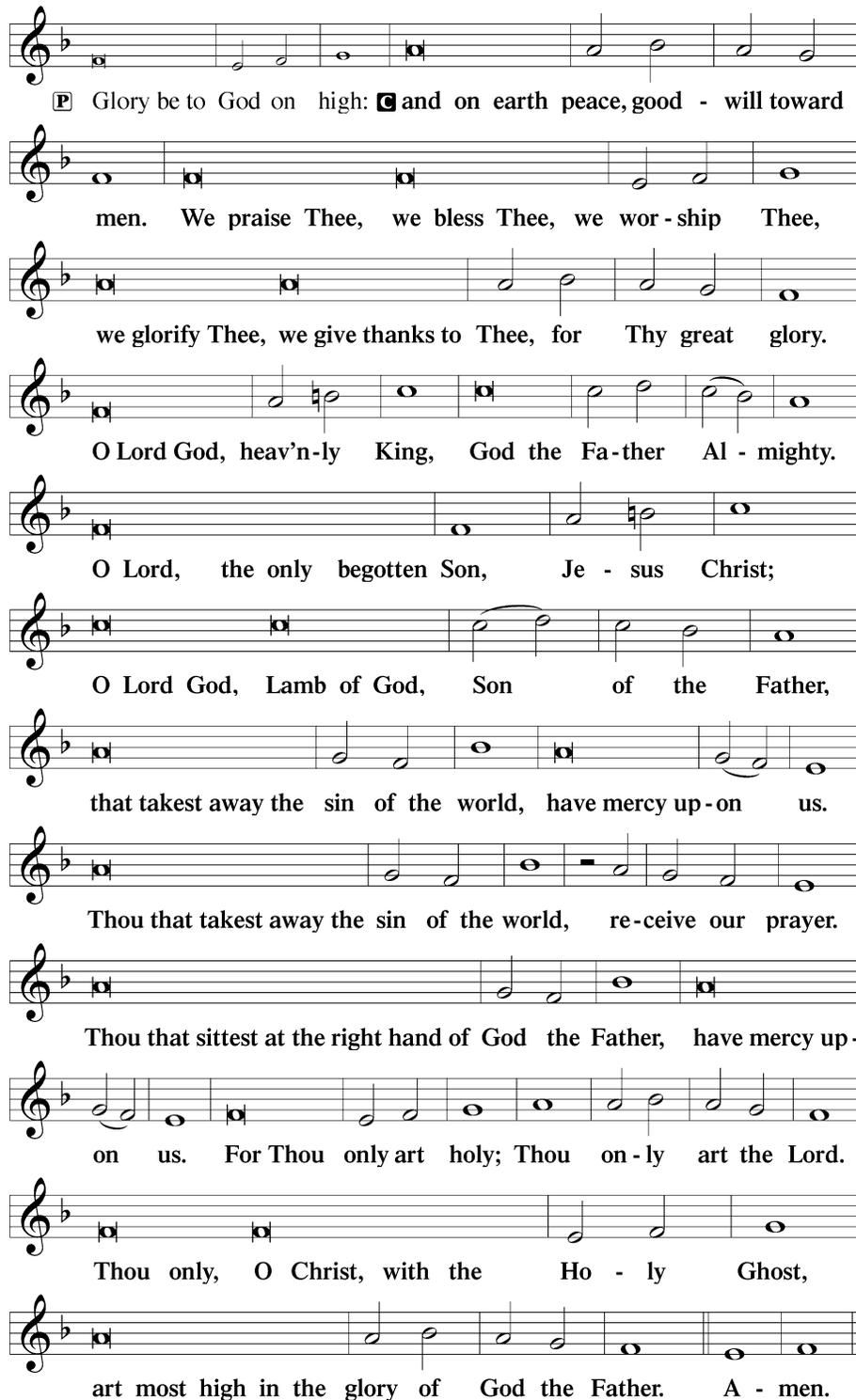
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



P Glory be to God on high: **C** 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 spirit.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

FIRST READING

Revelation 14:6-7

P The First Reading is from the Revelation of Saint John, chapter 14.

⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 48:1a, 12-14a

The pastor and congregation chant together.



Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised*
in the city | of our God!
We walk about Zion, go around her, number her | towers,*
consider well her ramparts, go through her | citadels.
That you may tell the next gener- | ation*
that this is God, our God forever and | ever.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 3:19-28

P The Epistle is from Romans, chapter three.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

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.

Luke 12:32

Alleluia. Fear not, little flock,
for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Alleluia.



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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31–36

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³They answered Him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

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 the world to come. Amen.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

LSB 656



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;
 Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;
 All ea - ger to de - vour us,
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 But for us fights the val - iant One,
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 He's by our side up - on the plain



That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
 Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.



The old e - vil foe Now means
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
 as he will, He can harm us none.
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



is not his e - qual.
 the field for - ev - er.
 tle word can fell him.
 dom ours re - main - eth.

Text and tune: Public Domain

SERMON

Rev. 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.

C Amen.

Philippians 4:7

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 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 peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For Matthew and Michael, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For Donald, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.

P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

The prayers then continue:

P For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C **Alleluia.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

P Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C **To You, O Lord.**

P Confident in all His promises, we are bold to pray:

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 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

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, amen, amen.**

The Divine Service will continue with the Lord's Supper for those present at the church. Please sing and/or read aloud the closing hymn in your home and, if possible, please come by the church for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.

CLOSING HYMN: Salvation unto Us Has Come

LSB 555, sts. 6–10



6 Since Christ has full a - tone-ment made And brought to us sal-
 7 Let me not doubt, but tru - ly see Your Word can - not be
 8 The Law re - veals the guilt of sin And makes us con-science-
 9 Faith clings to Je - sus' cross a - lone And rests in Him un-
 Δ 10 All bless - ing, hon - or, thanks, and praise To Fa - ther, Son, and



va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad And
 bro - ken; Your call rings out, "Come un - to Me!" No
 strick - en; But then the Gos - pel en - ters in The
 ceas - ing; And by its fruits true faith is known, With
 Spir - it, The God who saved us by His grace; All



build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear
 false - hood have You spo - ken. Bap - tized in - to Your
 sin - ful soul to quick - en. Come to the cross, trust
 love and hope in - creas - ing. For faith a - lone can
 glo - ry to His mer - it. O tri - une God in



Lord, I plead, Your death is now my
 pre - cious name, My faith can - not be
 Christ, and live; The Law no peace can
 jus - ti - fy; Works serve our neigh - bor
 heav'n a - bove, You have re - vealed Your



life in - deed, For You have paid my ran - som.
 put to shame, And I shall nev - er per - ish.
 ev - er give, No com - fort and no bless - ing.
 and sup - ply The proof that faith is liv - ing.
 sav - ing love; Your bless - ed name we hal - low.

Text and tune: Public Domain

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

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

Happy Reformation Sunday! We rejoice in the recovery of the pure Gospel that we are justified by grace through faith in the vicarious atonement of Christ Jesus apart from the works of the Law (what Lutherans call the “first and chief article” of the Faith [Smalcald Articles, Part II, Article I]).

Sadly, a lot of “Reformation Celebrations” are more “German Heritage Parties” than celebrations of orthodox theology. So what does it mean to be “Lutheran”? The answer is found in two places: first, in Holy Scripture, the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God; and, second, in the Lutheran Confessions, drawn from God’s Word and forming a true and binding exposition of Holy Scripture.

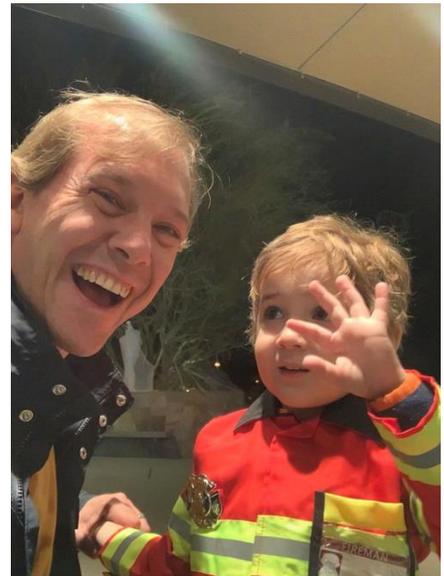
I commend to each of you our Lutheran Confessions—the Book of Concord—and I strongly encourage you to read them! Yes, it can be arduous—boring at times or repetitive or even confusing. But the most difficult things in life are often the most rewarding. You can read our Confessions online at www.BookOfConcord.org or pick up a copy from Concordia Publishing House (www.CPH.org).

However, there is another celebration this week that brings me great joy: Halloween!

I love Halloween! I absolutely love it—the “spooky” decorations, the jack-o-lanterns, the little “ghosts” and “goblins” that parade from door-to-door crying out “trick or treat!” I love the “Americana” version of Halloween . . . what Leo and I call “pretend scary” because it is just for fun.

Last year, Holly and I took Leo and Sam to The Living Desert up in Palm Springs for evening Trick-or-Treat event. It was SO FUN! And I wish we could have done it again . . . but Halloween, like so many holidays this year, is “different” because of COVID-19.

But even if we are staying at home this year, that’s no reason not to dress up! I will, of course, be Captain Kirk again (for the 30th year in a row). I’m not sure what Leo wants to be this year (last year he was a firefighter) but I think Holly and I might get a “Baby Yoda” costume for Sam. I’ll post some pictures next week! And maybe you can post pictures of your costume also on Grace’s Facebook page! Just make sure it’s “pretend scary” and all in good fun.



Speaking of fun! . . . please join me for our **Study of the Psalms** on “Zoom” **every Tuesday at Noon (ending by 1:00pm)**. It is both edifying and fun! 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 27.

- 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) and the live-stream is 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

P.S. Next Sunday is All Saint’s Day when we remember our brothers and sisters in Christ who have died in the past year and now rest from their labors. If you would like to have the name of a Christian family member or friend included in the service next Sunday, please email me so that I can include them.