



**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 27, 2026**

**10:30 am**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

*Growing a Christian community where each is valued, accepted, and loved.*

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# **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost: September 27, 2026**

## **Prelude**

### **Gathering**

#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

*Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

*Please kneel or sit as you are able. Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Compassionate God,

**C:** we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Entrance Hymn #719 (blue hymnal) vv. 1, 3-4

“God Is Here!”

## Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

## Kyrie

## LBW Setting 2



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. B Lord, have mer - cy.

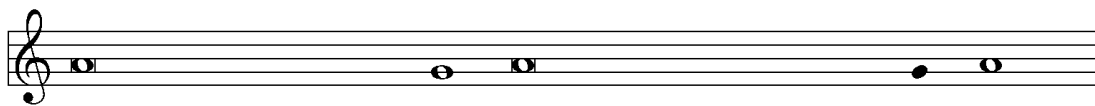


A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



B Lord, have mer - cy.

(cont'd)



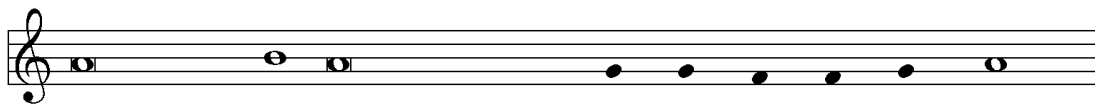
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

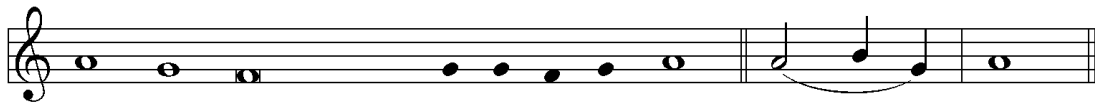


**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men

## Prayer of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm

us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **The Word**

### **Blessing of the Lector**

**P:** Let us pray.

God Almighty, we ask your blessing upon Marie as she reads to us the scriptures. May the words of her mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### **First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again,

when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup> Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup> Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup> Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup> Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalmody: Special Music**

“Unto Thee, O Lord” (Ps. 25)

Charles F. Monroe

## **Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the

same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,  
<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a human,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name  
that is above every other name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.

**C:    Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Gospel Acclamation

## LBW Setting 2

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

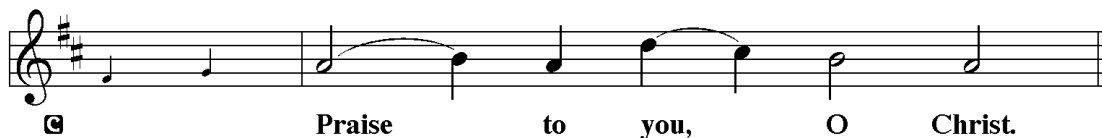
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>23</sup> When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup> But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup> “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup> He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



*Please be seated.*

## Children's Sermon

**Sermon**

**Rev. Carrol McDonald**

*Silence for reflection and meditation.*

## Hymn of the Day #504 (green hymnal)

“O God, My Faithful God”

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**A:** Let us confess our common faith with all Christians throughout time and place, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*After each petition:*

A: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*After the last petition:*

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## Invitation to Offering

A: Because Christ has made us his own, we count the riches of this world as rubbish (*Philippians 3:8, 12*). Let us give our offering in order that we might bear good fruit in Jesus' name.

**Offertory: Hymn #760 (blue hymnal) vv. 1-2**

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

## Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

## The Meal

### Dialogue and Preface

### LBW Setting 2

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus

## LBW Setting 2

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Great Thanksgiving

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

P:     Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

P:     Christ invites you to this table.  
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

*Please be seated.*

## Agnus Dei

## LBW Setting 2



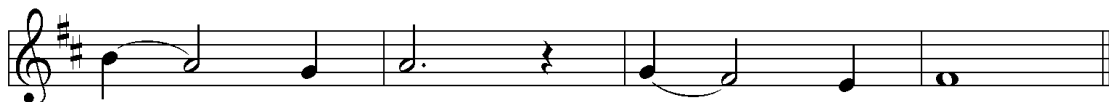
**☪** Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion

P: The Body of Christ, broken for you.

The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Those who wish to commune at the altar rail may either bring forward their individual Communion kit, or receive the wafer and wine/grape juice by intinction (dipping) from the Communion Ministers, when they are directed forward by the usher. Those who wish to commune in their seat with their individual Communion kit may remain seated. Children may come forward with their family for a blessing.*

## Communion Hymn #213 (green hymnal)

“I Come, O Savior, to Your Table”

## Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

## Post-Communion Canticle

## LBW Setting 2



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

# Sending

**Temple Talk: “The Power of Faith”**

**Announcements for God’s Mission in the World**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Blessing**

**LBW Setting 2**



☐ Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son,  
and Holy Spirit, bless you now and for - ever.

☐ A - men

**Closing Hymn #446 (green hymnal)**

“Whatever God Ordains Is Right”

**Dismissal**

**A:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

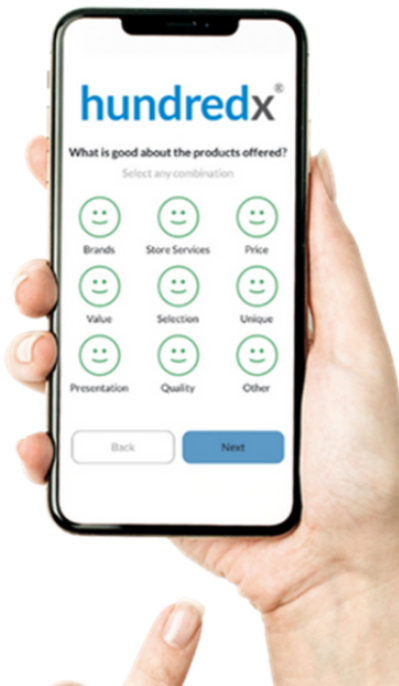
**C:** Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**

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## Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor, Presider

Rev. Carrol McDonald, Preacher

Kris Keith, Music Director

Kate Wollenburg, Organist

Edward Bardes, Assisting Minister

Marie Calhoun, Reader

Chet Laine, Livestreamer

## Upcoming Events

### **Sunday, September 27: 18 Pentecost**

9 am Adult Bible Study

10 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

### **Tuesday, September 29**

*\*\*No Bible study this week\*\**

### **Sunday, October 4: 19 Pentecost**

9 am Adult Bible Study

10 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

### **Tuesday, October 6**

11 am Bible Study

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