

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
September 27th, 2026 – 9:30 AM

WELCOME



Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

✝ Preacher – The Reverend Wes Smith
✝ Officiant – Pr. Rudy Schneider

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, let us confess our sin to God. *Silence is kept for reflection*

Compassionate One, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We many times do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not always welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. Sometimes we oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. Live now as the forgiven child of God and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into all righteousness. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: ELW#836 - Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Prayer of the Day - 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. **Amen.**

GOD'S HOLY WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What 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"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know 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.

²⁵Yet 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? ²⁶When 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. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life.



²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ 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?

³⁰ 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.

³¹ 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? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 25: 1 - 9

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;**

therefore you teach sinners in your way.

⁹ **You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.
Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew 21: 28 - 32; **Glorify to You, O Lord!**

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹Which 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. ³²For 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

CHILDRENS MESSAGE & SERMON – Doers of the Word

The Reverend Wes Smith

HYMN: Yet Not I, But through Christ in Me

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer, There is no more for Heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom, My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace. To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, For my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing, "all is mine", Yet not I but through Christ in me.
2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken, For by my side the Savior He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, For in my need His power is displayed.
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won and I shall overcome, Yet not I but through Christ in me.
3. No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven, The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and He was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated, Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing "I am free". Yet not I but through Christ in me.
4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus, For He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day, I know He will renew me Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, All the glory evermore to Him When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat. Yet not I but through Christ in me.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

✠ *We recognize all joining us virtually and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests.*

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us. *A brief silence.*

Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud, with our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud)*. Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Provide this congregation with Your divine wisdom and guidance in our search for a shepherd to lead us with humility, love, and grace. Lord, bless our search process, our call committee and open doors to reveal the right candidate to us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

(Additional Petitions may be offered.)

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Our Savior and Redeemer, we come to you with hearts filled with gratitude for the abundant blessings you give us each day. Receive these gifts as a joyful act of worship and an expression of our deep love for you and our want to further your kingdom here on earth. Use these gifts and us in your service. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

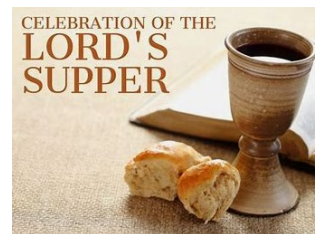
We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus the Christ, who was born a man, who lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light.

Who 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.

Make us one with him and with one another, that we may live for others as he lived for us until that day when we shall feast with him in glory. And hear us as we pray the prayer he taught us to pray,

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 – Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, come!

All who are hungry, come!

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

COMMUNION HYMN 1: On Bended Knee

On bended knee I come, with a humble heart I come,
Bowing down before Your holy throne.

Lifting holy hands to You, as I pledge my love anew,

I worship You in spirit, I worship you in truth,

Make my life a holy praise unto You.

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COMMUNION HYMN 2: Glorify Thy Name

1. Father we love You,
We praise and adore You,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

3. Spirit we love You
We praise and adore You,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

2. Jesus we love You
We praise and adore You,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

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COMMUNION HYMN 3: Majesty

Majesty, worship His majesty.

Unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.

Majesty, kingdom authority

Flow from His throne unto His own

His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.

Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.

Majesty, worship His majesty,

Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.

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Closing Prayer - 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. **Amen.**

Blessing - The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

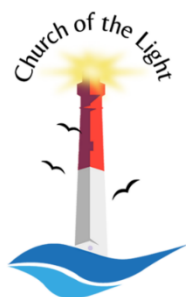
CLOSING HYMN: Your Name is Jesus

Your name is Jesus, the Lord of all,
You reign in majesty, at your feet we fall,
We lift our hands to you, O Lord we worship you,
Your name is Jesus, the Lord of all!
King of kings and Lord of lords, creator of all things,
King of kings and Lord of lords, let all the nations sing...

Your name is Jesus, the Lord of all,
You reign in majesty, at your feet we fall,
We lift our hands to you, O Lord we worship you,
Your name is Jesus, your name is Jesus, your name is Jesus,
The Lord of all, the Lord of all, the Lord of all.

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Dismissal: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**



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