

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

*RINGING OF THE BELLS + WELCOME TO
WORSHIP!*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

606 I LAY MY SINS ON JESUS

1 I lay my sins on Jesus,
The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us
From the accursèd load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus
To wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious
Till not a spot remains.

2 I lay my wants on Jesus;
All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases;
My soul He does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus,
My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases;
He all my sorrows shares.

3 I rest my soul on Jesus,
This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces;
I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus,
Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes
His name abroad is poured.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89

Text: Public domain

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

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

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your**

temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB 187

P Glory be to God on high:

C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship
Thee,**

**we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for
Thy great glory.**

**O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father
Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have
mercy upon us.**

**Thou that takest away the sin of the world,
receive our prayer.**

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the
Father, have mercy upon us.**

**For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

A The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, chapter 18.

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of

the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the

death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Philippians 2:1–18

A The Epistle is from Philippians, chapter 2.

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in

human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your

faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA

LSB 190

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23–32

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²³When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what

authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before 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 when you saw

it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

655 LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow’r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

SERMON

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

OFFERTORY

LSB 192

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 195

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that
cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 196

P 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.

C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and
the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 198

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away
the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away
the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

702 MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE

- 1 My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

- 2 May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!

- 3 While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
 Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
 From Thee aside.
- 4 When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
 Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
 A ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87

Text: Public domain

507 HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

sts. 1–4

- 1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
 Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
 God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
 Casting down their golden crowns around the
 glassy sea;
 Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
 Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
 Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not
 see,
 Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
 Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth
 and sky and sea.
 Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
 God in three persons, blessèd Trinity!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826

Text: Public domain

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.

P We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another;

through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

BENEDICTION

LSB 202

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

721 LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

ref Lead me, guide me, along the way;
For if You lead me, I cannot stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

- 1 I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow'r
To help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness Thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain
- 2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain
- 3 I am lost if You take Your hand from me,
I am blind without Thy light to see.
Lord, always let me Thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain

Text: Doris M. Akers, 1922–95

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Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service
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