



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

Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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*Vertrau Auf Gott! [Trust in God]
Services are being live-streamed and recorded.*

The Holy Eucharist

Announcements & Prelude

A Hymn in Procession – “*God Is Here!*”

Hymnal #526

The Invocation

Celebrant In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
People **Amen.**

The Celebrant continues

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Compassionate God, **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.**

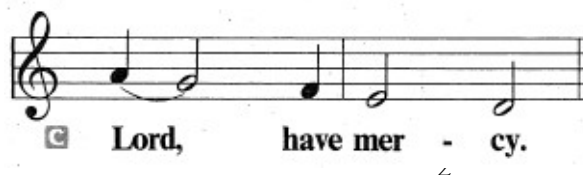
Celebrant

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. **Amen.**

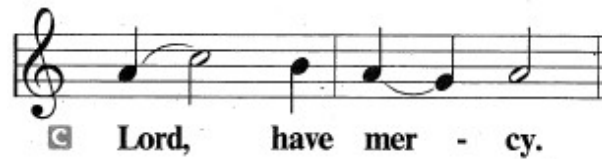
The Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie Eleison – “*Lord, have mercy*”

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (Response: **And also with you.**)

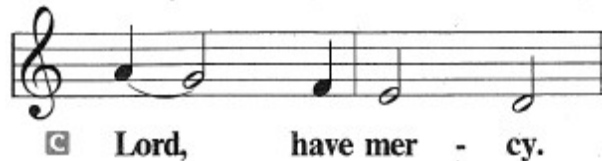
Celebrant In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
People



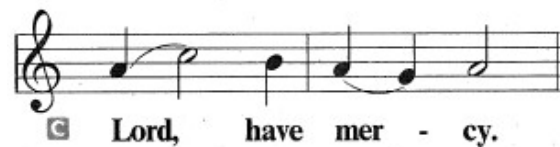
Celebrant For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
People



Celebrant For the peace of the whole world, for the wellbeing of the Church of
People God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Celebrant For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
People let us pray to the Lord.



Celebrant Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.
People



The Canticle – *The Gloria in Excelsis*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take
away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father, Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* **And also with you.** *Celebrant* 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. **Amen.**

A Reading of Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

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

²⁵ 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? ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ Again, 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord. *People* **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9 Read responsively.

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.

A Reading of Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² 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, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Lector The Word of the Lord. *People* **Thanks be to God.**

The Alleluia and Verse

The Celebrant and People

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia.**

A Reading of the Gospel according to Matthew 21:23-32

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³ 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?” ²⁴ 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.

²⁵ 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?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ 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.

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.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ 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. ³² 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.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

Rev. Robert Lehman

Rededication of the Stained Glass Windows

A Hymn – “Christ, Be Our Light”

Hymnal #715

The Apostles' Creed

The Officiant and People together

**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

After each petition, (Hear us, O God) the congregation responds: **Your mercy is great.**

The Sharing of Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be with you always.
People **And also with you.**

The Liturgy of the Altar

The Offertory Hymn *"Let Us Break Bread Together"*

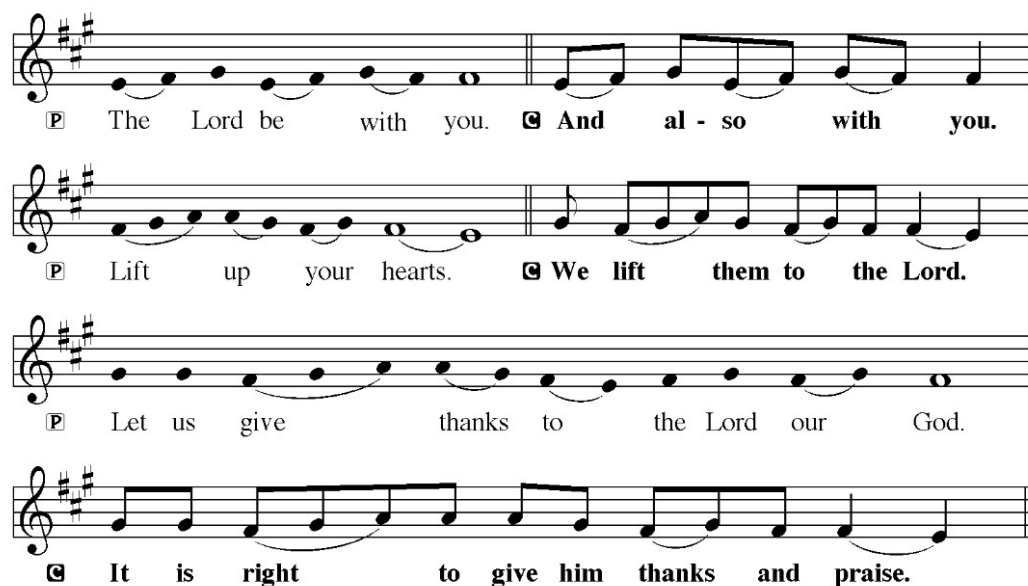
Hymnal #471

The Offertory Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **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 Great Thanksgiving



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

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

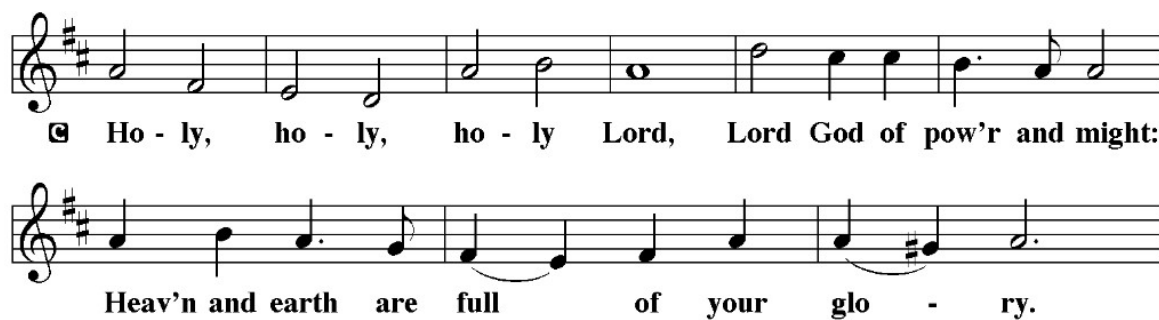
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

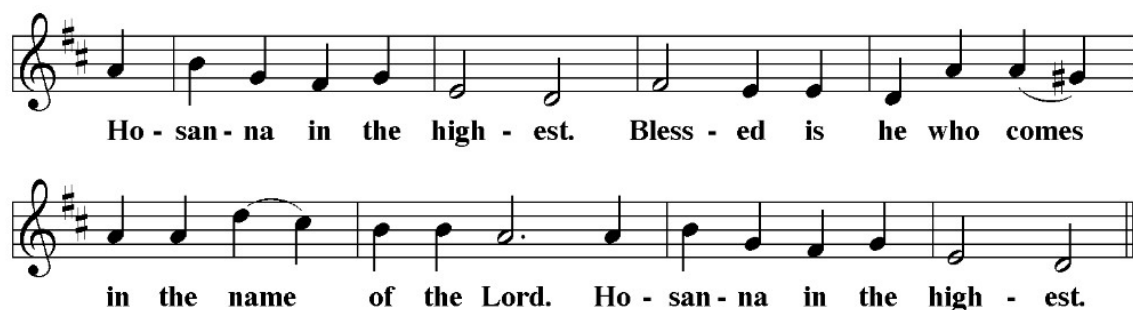
It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with angels and archangels, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The Celebrant and People together



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



The Celebrant continues

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are the most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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 in the forgiveness of sin. Do this for remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

The Celebrant and People together

**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.**

The Agnus Dei – “Lamb of God”



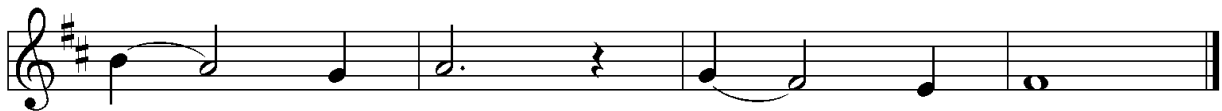
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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.

Invitation to Holy Communion

Celebrant Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his Supper.

People **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you. But only say the word and I shall be healed.**

The Distribution of Holy Communion

In the Evangelical-Lutheran tradition, we invite all baptized persons to receive Holy Communion at the altar. We believe that in the Blessed Sacrament we receive the true Body and precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Please come forward as directed by the usher and return by the side aisle. If you are unable to come forward, the Celebrant will bring Holy Communion to you.

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant May the true body and precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ preserve your body and soul unto everlasting life. **Amen.**
Let us pray.

The Celebrant and People together

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.

The Blessing

The Celebrant

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the Name of the Father, and of the **†** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Final Hymn – “Blessed Assurance”

Hymnal #638

Dedication of the Playground

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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Serving this Week

Ushers & Tellers: Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth
Lector, Communion Assistant and Acolyte : Declan Corley

Serving Next Week

Ushers & Tellers: Donnie Davis and Keith Davis/Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth
Lector, Communion Assistant and Crucifer : Joshua Lewis
Acolyte : Ella Barletta

Upcoming Events

Join us in the fellowship hall after church service for coffee and refreshments

Sunday School Lesson
What's a Church?