

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

10:30 a.m.

"Which of the two
did the will of
his father?"

Matthew 21:31, NRSV



As we gather today around the table of the word, we become more than a collection of individuals. We have been united to each other in the waters of baptism and welcomed by Christ to his holy supper. While some may be strangers to us, we are invited to recognize the deep communion we share in Christ Jesus. The liturgy does not protect us from others; it teaches us to be a people of hospitality, generous in faith, hope, and love.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

Stand

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

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** Amen.

WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P 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.

Kneel/ Remain Standing

P Most merciful God,

C We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

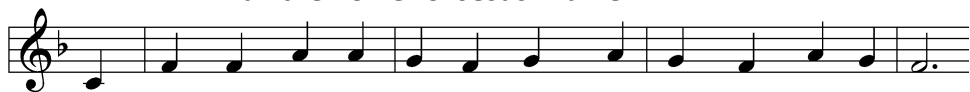
P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE *Share a greeting of peace with those around you.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

HYMN “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;
2 Crown Him, ye mar-tys of our God, Who from His al - tar call;
3 Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, Ye ran - somed from the fall,
6 Let ev - 'ry kin-dred, ev - 'ry tribe, On this ter - res-trial ball
7 Oh, that with yon - der sa - cred throng We at His feet may fall!



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all maj - es - ty as - crite And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song And crown Him Lord of all.



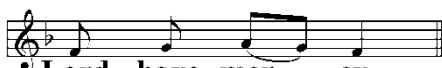
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We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song And crown Him Lord of all.

Text and tune: Public domain

KYRIE

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.

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C Lord, — have mer - cy.

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 — mer - cy.

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



C Lord, — have mer - cy.

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



C A - - - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

(intro.)

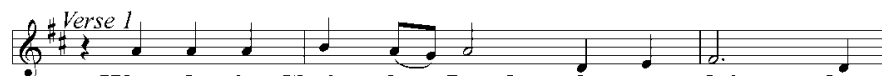


C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Go to
Verses*



Verse 1
Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free — to be peo - ple of God.

*Sing the
Refrain*

Verse 2

Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Sing the Refrain*

Verse 3

Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - - - tion:

Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - - men. *Sing the Refrain*

Verse 4

For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - - - ia. *continue below*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - - - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

P God of love, 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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** Amen.

Sit

Children are invited to the Fireside Lounge for the Children's Lesson.

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

The prophet Ezekiel challenges an old proverb that would see the exile as punishment for the sins of the exiles' ancestors. Rather, he says, God insists that individuals are responsible for their own sin and their own repentance.

R The word of the LORD came to me: 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"? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. 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 that shall die.

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? 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. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. 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?

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

R This is the Word of the Lord **C** **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON Philippians 2:1-13

Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn to describe the attitude of humble self-sacrifice displayed in Christ Jesus. Although Christians may disagree on many things, he urges them to be of one mind with regard to emulating Christ's self-giving love.

R If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 being born in human likeness.
 And being found in human form,
 he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death--
 even death on a cross.
 Therefore God also highly exalted him
 and gave him the name
 that is above every name,
 so that at the name of Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

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

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

intro: one chord

C Al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter - nal - life. Al-le-lu - ia. Al-le-lu - ia.

GOSPEL **P** The Gospel is written in Matthew chapter 21, beginning at verse 23.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Shortly after arriving in Jerusalem, Jesus drives the moneychangers out of the temple, heals the sick, and begins teaching there. These activities are challenged by the religious leaders who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

P 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?" 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. 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?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." 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.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. 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. 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 This is the Gospel of the Lord. **G** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

MESSAGE

Stand

HYMN "O God My Faithful God"



1 O God, my faith - ful God, True foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Grant me the strength to do With read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing words That lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind - ly words and ac - tions,



With - out whom noth - ing is, All per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
What - ev - er You com - mand, My call - ing here ful - fill - ing;
Guard me lest i - dle speech May from my lips be fall - ing;
And let me find good friends For coun - sel and cor - rec - tion.



Give me a health - y frame, And may I have with - in
That I do what I should While trust - ing You to bless
But when with - in my place I must and ought to speak,
Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small



A con - science free from blame, A soul un - stained by sin.
The out - come for my good, For You must give suc - cess.
Then to my words give grace Lest I of - fend the weak.
And by Your Spir - it's might To live in peace with all.

5 Let me depart this life
Confiding in my Savior;
By grace receive my soul
That it may live forever;
And let my body have
A quiet resting place
Within a Christian grave;
And let it sleep in peace.

6 And on that final day
When all the dead are waking,
Stretch out Your mighty hand,
My deathly slumber breaking.
Then let me hear Your voice,
Redeem this earthly frame,
And bid me to rejoice
With those who love Your name.

Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy," to which the congregation responds, "hear our prayer." The prayers conclude:

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

C Amen.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

OFFERING

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in the offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.



OFFERTORY SONG AND PRAYER

introduction

C Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, ' and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the
bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer
now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give
us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

- P** Let us pray. God of wisdom,
C in your Son Jesus you teach us to love one another
 and to share the gifts of our lives. Receive these gifts in thanksgiving for all you
 have done for us. Bring forth from us a rich yield in lives dedicated to your service.
C Amen.

THE PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.



- C**
P Lift up your hearts.



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



- P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should ... and so we praise your
 name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- 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.”
- P** 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.”

LORD’S PRAYER

Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

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

THE LAMB OF GOD

Musical notation for 'The Lamb of God' in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The lyrics 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.' are written below the staff. A repeat sign with a first ending bracket is placed above the staff after the word 'us'. The second ending begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The lyrics 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.' are written below the staff. A repeat sign with a first ending bracket is placed above the staff after the word 'peace'.

C 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.

Sit

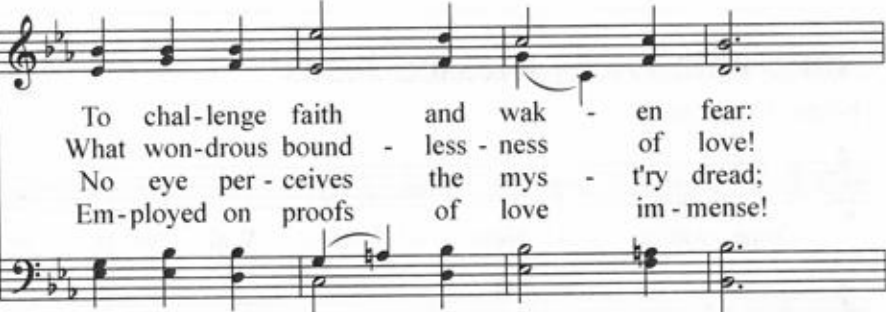
THE DISTRIBUTION *You are invited to approach the altar to receive communion elements along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free available.*

HYMN "An Awe-Filled Mystery is Here"

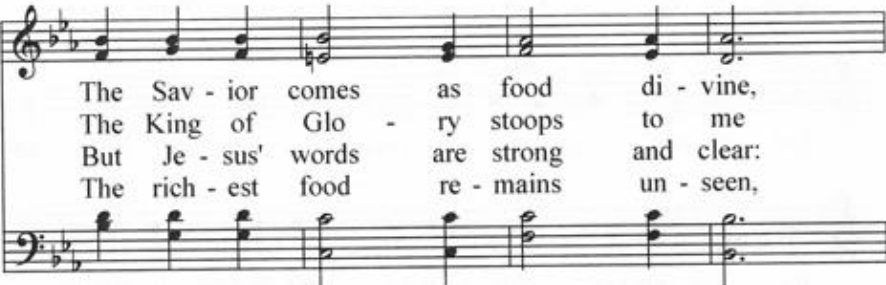
harmonized for part-singing



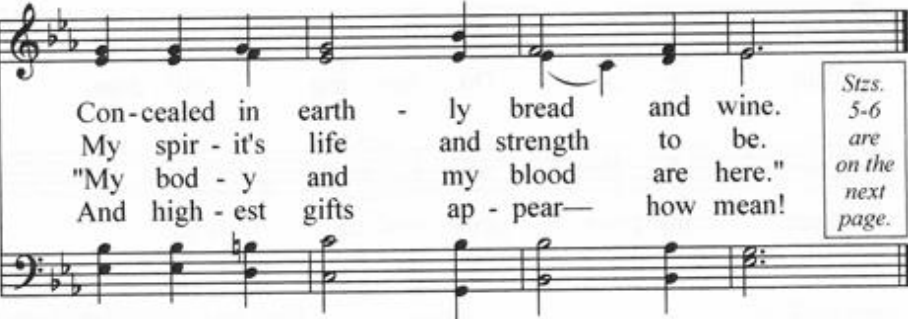
1) An awe-filled mys - ter - y is here
 2) This world is love - starv'd- but a - bove,
 3) In con - se - crat - ed wine and bread
 4) How dull are all the pow'rs of sense



To chal-lenge faith and wak - en fear:
 What won-drous bound - less - ness of love!
 No eye per - ceives the mys - t'ry dread;
 Em-ployed on proofs of love im - mense!



The Sav - ior comes as food di - vine,
 The King of Glo - ry stoops to me
 But Je - sus' words are strong and clear:
 The rich - est food re - mains un - seen,



Con-cealed in earth - ly bread and wine.
 My spir - it's life and strength to be.
 "My bod - y and my blood are here."
 And high - est gifts ap - pear— how mean!

*Stzs.
5-6
are
on the
next
page.*

5) But here we have no boon on earth,
 And faith a-lone dis-cerns its worth,
 The Word, not sense, must be our guide,
 And faith as-sure since sight's de-nied.

6) Lord, show us still that You are good
 And grant us ev-er-more this food.
 Give faith to ev-'ry wav-'ring soul
 And make each wound-ed spir-it whole.

Stand

THE BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE AND PRAYER

intro: one chord

C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'-ry-one what
 he has done. Let all who seek 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.

P Let us pray. Lord God, you are the one for whom we have waited. We rejoice in your salvation. As you have fed us with the riches of this table, place us again in your vineyard to reap the harvest of righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P 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. **C** Amen.

P Go in peace; serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa-nied by Thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a-rise; Tri-umph o'er the shades of night.
Joy-less is the day's re-turn Till Thy mer-cy's beams I see,
Fill me, ra-dian-cy di-vine, Scat-ter all my un-be-lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap-pear.
Till they in-ward light im-part, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
More and more Thy-self dis-play, Shin-ing to the per-fect day.

Text and tune: Public domain

POSTLUDE

Our Confession about Communion

Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine, we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who have been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; and concur in our confession.

Those who are not yet instructed or hold a confession different than this congregation may come forward with their arms crossed across their chest to receive a blessing.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.



"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"

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