

Order of Worship
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 27, 2026 – 8:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

LANA MIDDENDORF, ORGANIST

WELCOME

Please stand.

OPENING HYMN

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

When morning gilds the skies, My heart, awaking, cries,

“May Jesus Christ be praised!”

When evening shadows fall, This rings my curfew call:

“May Jesus Christ be praised!”

When mirth for music longs, This is my song of songs:

“May Jesus Christ be praised!”

God’s holy house of prayer Hath none that can compare

With “Jesus Christ be praised!”

No lovelier antiphon In all high heav’n is known

Than “Jesus Christ be praised!”

There to the eternal Word The eternal psalm is heard:

“May Jesus Christ be praised!”

Ye nations of mankind, In this your concord find:

“May Jesus Christ be praised!”

Let all the earth around Ring joyous with the sound:

“May Jesus Christ be praised!”

Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,

Sing, “Jesus Christ be praised!”

God’s whole creation o’er, Both now and evermore

Shall Jesus Christ be praised!

Text: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Würzburg, 1828; tr. Robert S. Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.
Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838-96; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958 Text & Music: Public Domain
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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

All: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, Who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.

Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God, Who from His altar call;
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod And crown Him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.

Hail Him, ye heirs of David's line, Whom David Lord did call,
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-92, sts. 1-5, alt.; *A selection of Hymns*, London, 1787, sts. 6-7 alt.
Tune: Oliver Holden, 1765-1844; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958 Text & Music: Public Domain
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

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 fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³ As I live, declares the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Behold, 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? ²⁶ When 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. ²⁷ Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸ Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹ Yet 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. ³¹ Cast 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? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4, 14-18

¹ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵ that 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, ¹⁶ holding 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.

¹⁷ Even 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. ¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

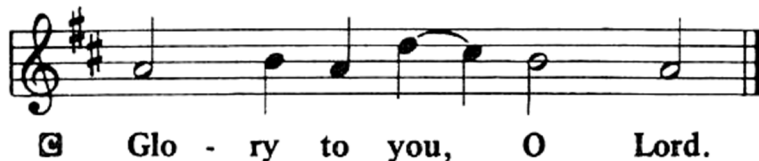
Please stand for the Holy Gospel.



THE HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 21:23-32

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-first chapter.



THE READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL

²³ When [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?" ²⁴ Jesus 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. ²⁵ The 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?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was 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 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.' ²⁹ And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. ³¹ Which 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. 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 when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord!



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down Beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing His love for me,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: *A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs*, Lynchburg, 1811, alt.
Tune: *Southern Harmony*, New Haven, 1835; setting: Donald A. Busarow, b. 1934
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THE SERMON

REV. A. J. ESPINOSA

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker 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 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.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

After each petition the prayer concludes:

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

All: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.

Crown Him the virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:

Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.

His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-94, sts. 1-3,5, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958 Text & Music: Public Domain
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Flower Arrangements

The flower arrangements which grace our altar this weekend are dedicated to the glory of the Lord by **Wendy** and **Alan Pine** in celebration of their 34th wedding anniversary.

Keep in Your Prayers

Prayers for strength and healing, guidance and blessing for:

Brian Adams
Terri Green

Alexander Hernandez
Jeanne Kelly

Brad Morton