

Today’s Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

<sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup> “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?’ <sup>3</sup> As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> “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? <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>29</sup> 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? <sup>30</sup> “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. <sup>31</sup> 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? <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

Philippians 2:1-4, 5-18

<sup>1</sup> So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every

name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, 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, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. <sup>14</sup> Do all things without grumbling or disputing, <sup>15</sup> 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, <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Matthew 21:23-32

<sup>23</sup> And when he 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?” <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> 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?’” <sup>26</sup> But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> “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.’” <sup>29</sup> And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> 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.

*All Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®.*

In Our Prayers this Week—

- *October mission of the month, Lutheran Heritage Foundation.*
- *Expectant mothers and their children.*
- *John Schmitt, brother of Andy Schmitt, residing at Rocky Knoll.*
- *Alice Denhardt, recovering from a broken hip.*
- *Holly, relative of Amy Assmann, battling cancer.*
- *Jayne Cotter, receiving radiation and chemo treatments.*
- *Jessica Dolezal, receiving treatment for recurrence of cancer.*
- *Phil Bloedel, receiving hospice care at home.*
- *Wendell Smith, son-in-law of Jim Schmitz, battling cancer.*
- *Joan Eippert, receiving treatment for cancer.*
- *Marion, Terry Ourada’s mother, sick with cancer.*
- *Sarah Grisar, daughter-in-law of Dave and Bunnie Grisar, continuing battle with cancer.*
- *Daryl Grimm, brother of Bunnie Grisar, for successful procedure and chemo treatment.*
- *Peace among nations.*
- *The victims and families of all violence and disaster throughout our country and world.*
- *Please also keep in prayer*  
—*our Seminarian Luke Konkel;*  
—*John Wille our district president, who is undergoing aggressive treatment for cancer;*  
—*Matthew Harrison our synodical president, for the LCMS;*  
—*for the members, officers and auxiliaries of Emmanuel, for salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord’s body and blood;*  
—*our circuit congregation, St. Paul in Cascade and Rev. Richard Biding;*  
—*our Missionary Rev. Tyler McMiller and his family in Italy and Southern Europe; and*  
—*our shut-in Members, Phil & Donna Bloedel, Bob & Alice Denhardt and Ed Friede.*

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



THE PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS

*“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.’*

**Matthew 21:28**

EMMANUEL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*

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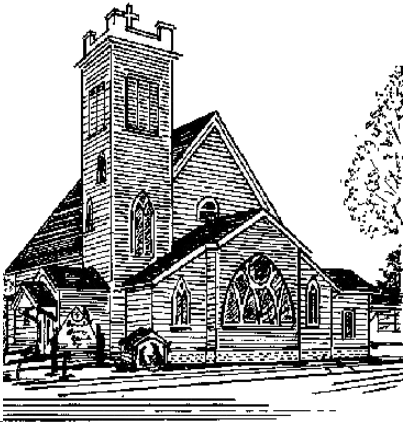
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**WE WELCOME** all who gather with us around the Altar and Pulpit to hear the Word of God.  
**IF YOU ARE VISITING** this morning, we are happy that you could join us today. *Please sign our guest book in the narthex.*  
**IF YOU DESIRE TO COMMUNE**, please speak to the pastor before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine and are members in good standing of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.  
**YOUNG CHILDREN** are always welcome in our service. Jesus said, *“Let the little children come to me...”* Activity bags are available in the narthex.  
**NEED ASSISTANCE** with anything? Please speak to the pastor or the usher.  
**RESTROOMS** are available in the back of the church or in the education wing.  
*We pray that you feel welcome in our congregation, that you are blessed by the service, and that you will come again.*

***The Cross of Christ Opens to Us  
the Way of Repentance to Life with God***

The way of the Lord is righteous and just: *“the soul who sins shall die”* (Ezek. 18:4). However, because the Lord has *“no pleasure in the death of anyone”* (Ezek. 18:32), He calls sinners to repentance and faith in His gracious forgiveness of sins. The man who is thus turned away from his wickedness, who henceforth lives by the grace of God, *“shall surely live; he shall not die”* (Ezek. 18:28). This way of repentance has been opened for us by the Cross of Christ. In the righteousness of faith and love, *“He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death”* (Phil. 2:8), and He was vindicated in His Resurrection from the dead. Indeed, *“God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name”* (Phil. 2:9). He has given us this name in our Baptism into Christ, in whom we now *“shine as lights in the world”* (Phil. 2:15). He uses the authority that He has received from His Father (Matt. 21:23–27) to preach a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, by which even *“the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God”* (Matt. 21:31–32).

**T H E F A M I L Y A L T A R**

- ①Verse of the Week — Matthew 21:42b** *“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?”*
- ②Hymn of the Week — LSB #544** *“O Love, How Deep”*
- ③Collect of the Week —** *Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*
- ④Daily Bible Readings — M:** *Deut. 3:1-29; Matt. 7:1-12* **T:** *Deut. 4:1-20; Matt. 7:13-29* **W:** *Deut. 4:21-40; Matt. 8:1-17* **Th:** *Deut. 5:1-21; Matt. 8:18-34* **F:** *Deut. 5:22—6:9; Matt. 9:1-17* **Sat:** *Deut. 6:10-25; Matt. 9:18-38* **Sun:** *Deut. 7:1-19; Matt. 10:1-23*
- ⑤Preparing for Next Sunday — Lessons for Pentecost 19:**  
*Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46; Psalm 80:7-19*
- ⑥The Whole Story for the Whole Family — Week 4**  

|                                      |                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Day 1—Wait and Believe</i>        | <i>Day 3—She Laughs</i>       |
| <i>Day 2—The Price of Impatience</i> | <i>Day 4—God Will Provide</i> |

**Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
OCTOBER 1, 2023**

Greeters — *Schommer Family*  
Elder — *Chris Neumann*; Usher — *Howard Mitchell*  
Altar Guild — *Elizabeth Laubenstein*; Jr. Altar Guild — *Allyson Neumann*  
Acolyte — *Tim Marks*  
Organist — *Mrs. Terry Ourada*  
Pastor — *Rev. Paul W. Marks*

**Introit** *(spoken responsively after confession & absolution)* Psalm 147:1-5; antiphon: v. 6

The LORD lifts up the humble;  
he casts the wicked to the ground.  
**Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;  
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**  
The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.  
**He heals the broken-hearted  
and binds up their wounds.**  
He determines the number of the stars;  
he gives to all of them their names.  
**Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;  
his understanding is beyond measure.**  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
The LORD lifts up the humble;  
he casts the wicked to the ground.

**Collect** *(spoken by pastor)*  
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.

**Gradual** *(spoken responsively)* Psalm 91:11; 103:1  
He will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.  
**Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!**

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

***Lutheran Service Book***  
*Divine Service-Setting Three*  
*page 184 and following*

Hymn of Invocation.....**#900**  
Confession and Absolution.....*p. 184*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

◀ Introit..... *see left*  
Kyrie & Gloria.....*p. 186-187*  
Salutation & Collect.....*p. 189*  
**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**  
*The Soul Who Sins Shall Die*  
◀ Gradual..... *see left*  
**Philippians 2:1-4, 5-18**  
*Christ’s Example of Humility*  
Alleluia .....*p. 190*  
**Matthew 21:23-32**  
*The Parable of the Two Sons*  
Nicene Creed.....*p. 191*  
Hymn of the Day.....**#655**  
Sermon — “Which Am I Today?”  
Offertory .....*p. 192*  
Offering  
Prayer of the Church

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Communion Liturgy.....*p. 194-198*  
Distribution.....*p. 199*  
*Please see communion statement above*  
Distribution Hymns.....**#635**  
.....**#549**  
Nunc Dimittis.....*p. 199*  
Thanksgiving.....*p. 200*  
Collect .....*p. 201*  
Salutation & Benedicamus.....*p. 201*  
Benediction .....*p. 202*  
Hymn to Depart.....**#848**

