

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 27, 2026

**WE ARE ONE CHRISTIAN FAMILY LED BY GOD'S WORD AND THE
HOLY SPIRIT INTO LOVING SERVICE.**

Our values are

**Bible Based Preaching, Spiritual Growth, Great Commission (Go,
Make Disciples...)**

PRELUDE

GREETING

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng" LSB 455 v 1,2,5,7

**Rejoice, O pilgrim throng! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
(Refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

**With voice as full and strong, as ocean's surging praise,
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, the psalms of ancient days
(Refrain)**

**Still lift your standard high, still march in firm array,
As pilgrims through the darkness wend till dawns the golden day.
(Refrain)**

**Praise him who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore:
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God forevermore. (Refrain)**

INVOCATION

(ref. Matthew 18:20)

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. *(1 John 1:8)*

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *(1 John 1:9)*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father. *(ref. Ps 32:5)*

C: 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.

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I announce the grace of God to you: your sin is forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *(Ref. Matt. 18:18; John 20:22-23)*

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE "This Is the Feast Of Victory" LW page 182-183 *(Rev.5:11-13)*

P: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**C*: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor
and blessing and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia
Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all
creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the
Lamb forever. Amen
This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was
slain has begun his reign. Alleluia, alleluia.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...

C: Amen

FIRST LESSON Psalm 25:4-9

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. ⁵Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. ⁶Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. ⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good. ⁸Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. ⁹He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON Philippians 2:1-13

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that 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 dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE (stand)

(John 6:68)

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

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 21st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵John's baptism, where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?" They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'From men', we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We don't know." Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' ²⁹" 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰"Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹"Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did ³²not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way" LSB 857

**Lord, help us walk Your servant way Wherever love may lead
And bending low, forgetting self, Each serve the other's need.**

**You came to earth, O Christ, as lord, But pow'r You laid aside.
You lived Your years in servanthood; In lowliness You died.**

**No golden scepter but a towel You place within the hands
Of those who seek to follow You And live by Your commands.**

**You bid us bend our human pride Nor count ourselves above
The lowest place, the meanest task That waits the gift of love.**

**Lord, help us walk Your servant way Wherever love may lead
And, bending low, forgetting self, Each serve the other's need.**

SERMON

CONFESSION OF FAITH 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**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH - concluding with

P: Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

OFFERTORY

(Psalm 51:10-12)

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, And take not your Holy Spirit
From me. Restore to me The joy of your salvation and uphold me with
your free Spirit.**

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift your hearts and hands in praise

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.

P: It is truly good, right, and helpful... évermore praising you and singing:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYERS AND THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

P: Our Lord on the night he was betrayed . . .

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

AGNUS DEI

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let
All who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his
promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

(Numbers 6:24-26)

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

CLOSING HYMN "Renew Me, O Eternal Light" LW 373

**Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from your holy face.**

**Remove the pow'r of sin from me
And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will
Temptations of the flesh to still.**

**Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey your Word.
Let what you will be my desire,
And with new life my soul inspire.**

**Grant that I only you may love
And seek those things which are above
Till I behold you face to face,
O Light eternal, through your grace.**

Silent prayer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

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