

September 27, 2026

10:00AM

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.



18th Sunday after Pentecost September 27, 2026

HOLY TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Here I Am To Worship

VTR

* THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.**

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.

**Please stand, as you are able*

* **THE GATHERING SONG:** **See Insert**
Great Are You Lord

* **THE GREETING**

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.

* **THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

THE WORD

First 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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

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.

Meditation Song: Lord I Need You

VTR

Second Reading: 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

The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

*** THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (Sung page 151a)

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

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

***GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32**

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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

GOOD NEWS 101 Children's talk

THE SERMON

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: *Graves into Gardens* See Insert

*** THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 THE CHURCH**

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Here we O God, **Your mercy is great.**

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always,
And also with you.

**THE OFFERING
SPECIAL MUSIC**

VTR

*** THE OFFERTORY: Give Thanks**

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong" let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong" let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give Thanks!

*** THE OFFERING PRAYER**

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 LORD'S PRAYER**

pg. 154

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 power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

*** THE BLESSING**

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*** THE SENDING SONG:**

See Insert

Your Grace Is Enough

*** THE DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

*Great
are the
works
of the
Lord.*

Serving Today: September 27, 2026

Acolyte: Schmalz Family

Lector: Judy Bariexca

Ushers: Ferol Howell

Musicians: Voices That Reign

Sound System: Laura Poethke

Serving Next Week: October 4, 2026

Communion Assistant: Ferol Howell

Acolyte: Baylee Rodig

Lector: Baylee Rodig

Ushers: Ferol Howell

Musician: Danny Allen

Sound System: Laura Poethke