



September 27, 2026

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Kenneth Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“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.
- ♪ Sinners, whose love can ne’er forget The wormwood and the gall,
Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.
- ♪ Let ev’ry kindred, ev’ry tribe, On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.
- ♪ Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall!
We’ll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.
We’ll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 549—Text (sts. 1–5): Edward Perronet, 1726–92, alt.; (sts. 6–7):
A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.; Text: Public domain*

Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

I will go to the altar of God,

To God my exceeding joy.

Psalms 43:4

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 124:8

Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us.

This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.

Isaiah 25:9

Confession and Absolution

God invites His whole creation to the great feast of His salvation. That we may boldly enter into His gates of mercy, let us lift up our prayer of repentance and faith.

Lord God, heavenly Father, with thanksgiving for Your great love and promise of new life and hope for living, we confess to You all our sins, our waywardness, our neglect of Your call, as well as our failure to be of help to our neighbor and one another. We humbly pray, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew and cleanse our hearts and minds, and give us true faith in Your promised grace and deliverance.

The feast of God's salvation has already begun for you by your Baptism into Christ. Now receive the Lord's abiding forgiveness, faith, strength, and help to live in the certain hope of eternal life in fellowship with Him: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“This Is the Feast”

~This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

♪ Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,

Whose blood set us free to be people of God. ~This is the feast...

♪ Power, riches, wisdom and strength,

And honor, blessing, and glory are His. ~This is the feast...

♪ Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation.

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

~This is the feast...

♪ For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. ~This is the feast....

Lutheran Service Book, Page 155-Text: tr. John W. Arthur; ©1978 Lutheran Church in America, The American Lutheran Church, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

¹The 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’? ³As I live, declares the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, 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? ²⁶When 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. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet 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. ³¹Cast 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? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Philippians 2:1–18

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form

of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that 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 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, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵that 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, ¹⁶holding 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. ¹⁷Even 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. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Renew Me, O Eternal Light”

- ♪ 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.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 704—Text: Johann Friedrich Ruopp 1672-1708; tr. August Crull 1845-1923; Public domain

The Holy Gospel Please Stand

Matthew 21:23–32

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Come, We That Love the Lord”

- ♪ Come, we that love the Lord, And let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord, Join in a song with sweet accord
And thus surround the throne, And thus surround the throne.
- ~We're marching to Zion, Beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We're marching upward to Zion, The beautiful city of God.
- ♪ Let those refuse to sing Who never knew our God;
But children of the heav'nly King, But children of the heav'nly King
May speak their joys abroad, May speak their joys abroad. ~We're marching...
- ♪ The hill of Zion yields A thousand sacred sweets
Before we reach the heav'nly fields, Before we reach the heav'nly fields,
Or walk the golden streets, Or walk the golden streets. ~We're marching...
- ♪ Then let our songs abound, And ev'ry tear be dry;
We're marching through Emmanuel's ground, We're marching through Emmanuel's ground
To fairer worlds on high, To fairer worlds on high. ~We're marching....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 669—Text (sts. 1–4):

Isaac Watts, 1674–1748; (ref): Robert Lowry, 1826–99; Text: Public domain

Proclamation of the Word

“The Will of the Father”

Matthew 21:23–32

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:14

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”

- ♪ Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.
- ♪ Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way; With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.
- ♪ Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night; Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.
- ♪ Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life, Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 917—Text: John Ellerton 1826-93; Public domain.

Postlude