

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Holstein, IA

September 27, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Eighteenth 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.

GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

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.

Opening Hymn

All Are Welcome st. 1, 2, 5 #641

Greeting

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

And also with you.

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.**

WORD

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.

Thanks be to God.

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.

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.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message ***Vicar Millie Anderson***

Hymn ***God Be the Love to Search and Guide Me*** see insert

Statement of Faith

We believe in one God, the most high, who is in all things, who is infinite in compassion, who is always present.

We believe in God above us, the truth of God, who created all things seen and unseen.

We believe in God among us, the Word of God, Immanuel, who was born as Jesus, son of the virgin Mary, who was revealed as the Christ come to redeem all, who suffered under Pontius Pilate, who was crucified, died, and was buried, who on the third day, rose again and ascended into heaven, who will come again to vindicate all creation.

Hymn: God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

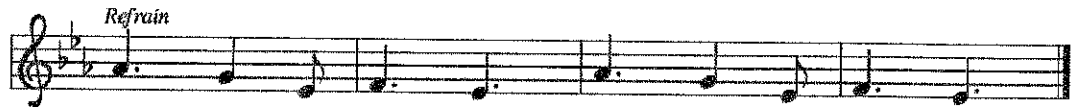
O Christ, Surround Me



- 1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
- 2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
- 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
- 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
- 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967

Music: GREEN TYLER, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

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We believe in God within us, the Spirit, the breath of God, who gives life to all creation, who works within the people of God, who is present in the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Communion, who forgives our sins, who give us eternal life.

We believe in one God, the most high, who is in all things, who is infinite in compassion, who is always present. Amen.

From Behold the Christ, Mark Douglass, ©1993, Dakota Road Music.
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RESPONSE

Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Children's Offering / Offering

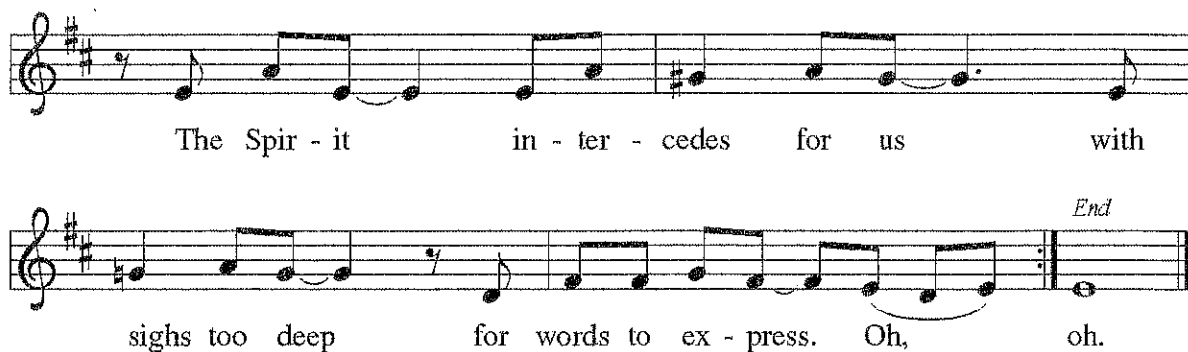
Offering Prayer

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.

Prayers of the People

Response between petitions:



The Spir - it in - ter - cedes for us with
sighs too deep for words to ex - press. Oh, oh.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for "The Spir - it in - ter - cedes for us with". The second staff contains the melody for "sighs too deep for words to ex - press. Oh, oh." and ends with a double bar line and the word "End".

Text and music: Romans 8:26, adapt. Larry Olson
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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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

SENDING

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.

Closing Song

Let Us Enter In

see insert

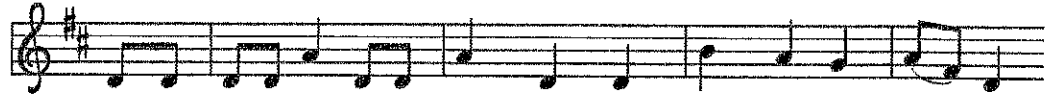
Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

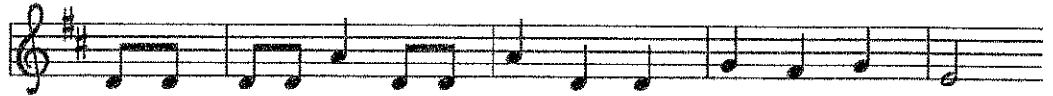
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

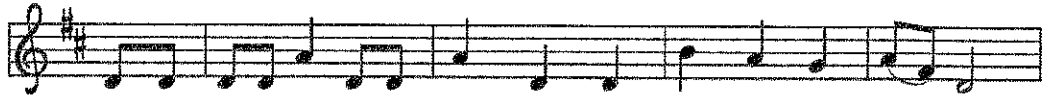
Closing Hymn: Let Us Enter In



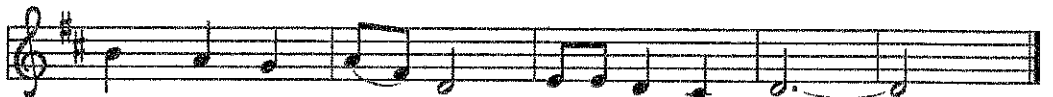
- 1 Let us en-ter in to the song of thanks - giv - ing and free - dom.
- 2 Let us en-ter in to the place where our God has pre - ced - ed.
- 3 Let us en-ter in to the heart of a world that is bro - ken.



Let us en-ter in to the long line of peo - ple in need.
Let us en-ter in to the face of the fear and the pain.
Let us en-ter in to the start of a hope we can share.



Let us en-ter in to the strong mind that God is still liv - ing.
Let us en-ter in to the grace of the love when it's need - ed.
Let us en-ter in to the part where we call one an - oth - er



Heal - ing, for - giv - ing— Let us en - ter in.
Death is de - feat - ed! Let us en - ter in.
sis - ter and broth - er. Let us en - ter in.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: LET US ENTER IN, Ray Makeever

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Worship Participants

Ministers:	All the members
Vicar:	Emily Anderson
DYME:	Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
Organist:	Sharen Borchers
Pianist:	Kris Kistenmacher
Lector:	Amy Bisenius
Deacons:	Justin Georg and Susan Endrulat
Greeter:	Laura Peuse
Acolytes:	Emmett Modrell and Beau Butcher
Sound & Video:	Randy & Kathy Vollmar
Coffee Hosts:	Karen & Jim Breyfogle Joyce & Dale Nelson

St. Paul Church Calendar

SUNDAY, September 27 ~ Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 AM	Worship
10:00 AM	Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 AM	Sunday School RALLY DAY activities

FRIDAY, October 2

5:30 PM	Private Baptism in Chapel
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SUNDAY, October 4 ~ Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
10:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Coffee & Fellowship