

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 27, 2026 • 9:30 a.m.



ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

1100 E Murdock Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54901

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

P: Pastor A: Assisting Minister L: Lector **C: Congregation/All**

*** *Invitation to stand***

Prelude *"How Beautiful" - T. Paris, arr. J. Raney - Nancy Netys, flute*

Welcome and Announcements

*** Confession and Forgiveness**

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

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

**C: 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.**

P: 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.

C: Amen.

* **Gathering Hymn:**

God Is Here

ELW 526



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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***The Apostolic 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.

*** Kyrie (Congregation sings refrain; Assisting Minister sings verses)**



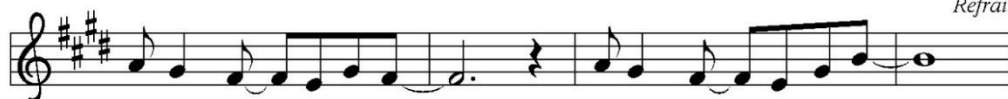
- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

* Hymn of Praise

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and

Refrain

hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of

vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-

le-lu-ia. 2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,

glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



* Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. God of love,

C: 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.

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

L: A reading from the book of Ezekiel.

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.

L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9

A: To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.

C: **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

A: Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

C: **Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**

A: 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.

C: **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

A: 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.

C: **You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

A: You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

L: A reading from the book of Philippians.

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.

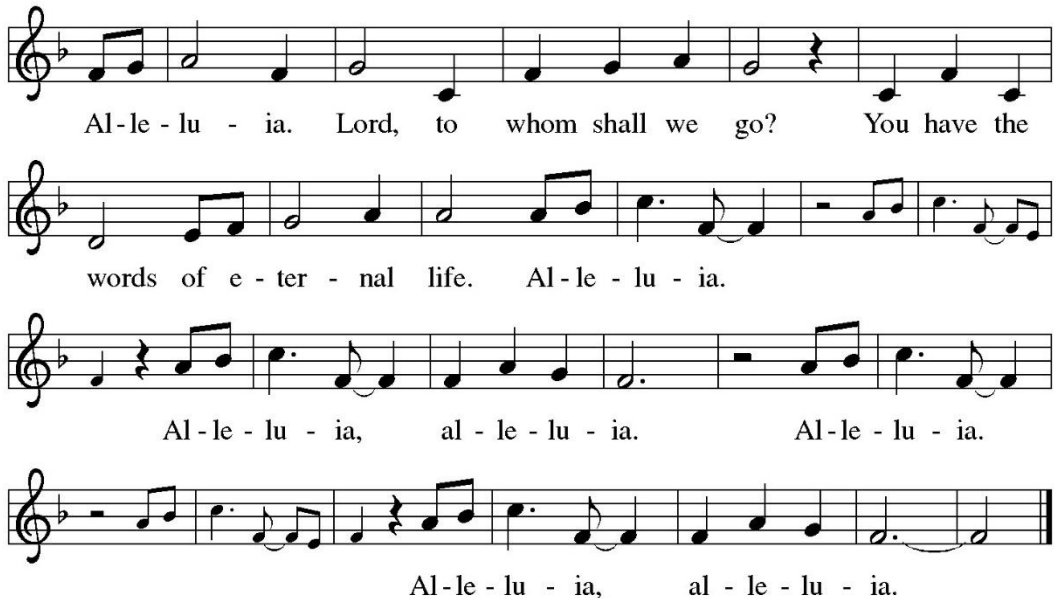
¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with

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.

L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

* 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.

* Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

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

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

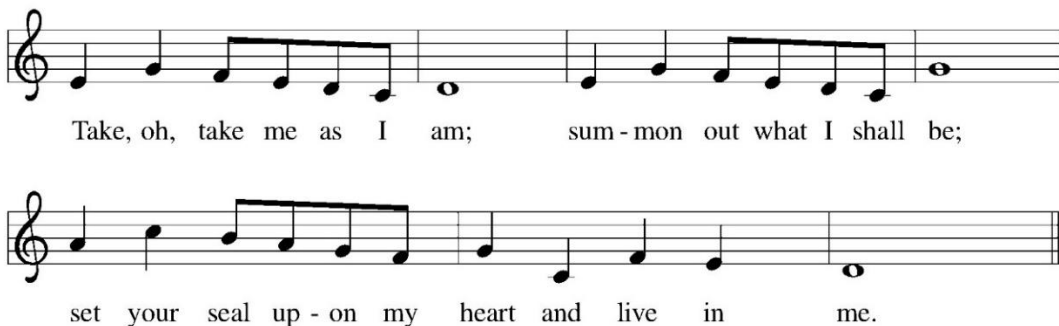
²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’” ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the 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.

Sermon

* Hymn of the Day: *Take, O Take Me As I Am* ELW 814
(Sing 2 Times)



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

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* The Apostles' Creed

A: Together, let us profess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: 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 Intercession

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

A brief silence.

A: Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need, especially those we name now in our hearts Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

*** Sharing the Peace**

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

C: And also with you.

Our Offerings for God's Work

Offerings may be placed in the offering plate at the entrance to the sanctuary, as you enter or leave the church.

Special Music *"Here I Am, Lord" - D. Schutte, arr. J. Raney - Nancy Netys, flute*

*** Offertory Hymn: *God Bless To Us Our Bread* ACS 1056**
(Sing 2 times)



God bless to . . us our . . bread, and give bread . . to all those who are



hun - gry, and hun - ger for jus - tice to those who are



fed. God bless to . . . us our . . . bread.

Text: Argentine traditional, collected by Federico Pagura, 1923–2016; tr. John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: BENDICE NUESTRO PAN, Argentine melody, collected by Federico Pagura; arr. John L. Bell
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*** Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray.
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.

C: Amen.

* The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

* The Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

* The Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

* Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, 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.**

* Invitation to Communion

P: Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

C: Thanks be to God.

- † **All are welcome at this table.** *Please follow the direction of the ushers as you make your way forward to the altar rail.*
- † *You will receive a wafer, then be offered a cup of red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are also available.*
- † *If it is either your practice or preference to not receive Communion today, please know that you are still welcome to come forward and receive a blessing.*
- † *There is space on both sides of the sanctuary if you would desire to light a candle and observe a quiet moment of reflection as you return to your seat.*
- † *If you need Holy Communion brought to you, please inform one of the ushers.*

Please stand, as you are able.

*** The Blessing**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

*** Prayer After Communion**

A: Let us pray:
Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

*** Prayer for Home Communion Visitors**

P: Compassionate God, as Jesus called the disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those at home. May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*** Benediction**

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

C: Amen.

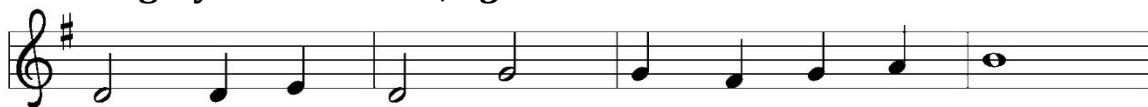
P: The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

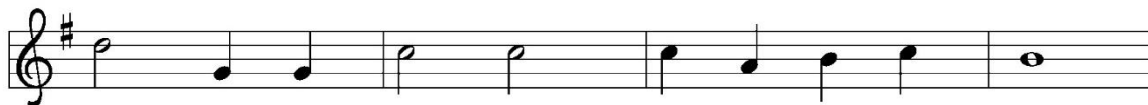
* Sending Hymn: *Savior, Again to Your Dear Name* ELW 534



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to your dear name we raise
 2 Grant us your peace up - on our home - ward way;
 3 Grant us your peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
 4 Grant us your peace through - out our earth - ly life,



with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
 with you be - gan, with you shall end the day;
 for us trans - form its dark - ness in - to light.
 our balm in sor - row, and our stay in strife;



once more we bless you ere our wor - ship cease,
 guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
 Keep us from harm and dan - ger till the dawn;
 then, when your voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



then, low - ly bend - ing, wait your word of peace.
 that in this house have called up - on your name.
 your eve - ning pres - ence prom - ise to your own.
 call us, O Lord, to your e - ter - nal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–1893, alt.

Music: ELLERS, Edward J. Hopkins, 1818–1901

* **Dismissal**

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

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Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – 8 am - noon