

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 26 and 27, 2026



THE WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. Scott A. Zeckzer
Lector: Seminarian Juston Lantrip
Organist: Lynne Eifert
Acolytes: Matt Sorg, Kale Dommer (8:00)
Maddox Franz, Uriah Edmondson (10:30)
Elder: John Colter (5:00)
Benjamin Castens (8:00, 10:30)
Ushers: Group S2 (Gary Nahrwold) (5:00)
Group 5 (Mike Schultz) (8:00)
Group 6 (Don Lambert) (10:30)
Communion Assistant: Jay Melcher (5:00)
Kurt Bremer (8:00)
Josh Pankop (10:30)

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Emanuel Lutheran Church is a united and growing family of Christians joyfully
dedicated to furthering God's Kingdom.

† The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost †

Divine Service IV with Communion – LSB page 203

WELCOME to those visiting us this Lord’s Day. It is our joy to have you worshipping with us. We invite you to come again and worship the Lord.

FELLOWSHIP DIRECTORY ~ Everyone, please sign in!

AS WE GATHER ~ From the beginning, God implanted His life-creating power into His creation with the command “Be fruitful and multiply” to animals (Genesis 1:22) and to humans (1:28), with one important difference. You are not an accident or only a product of biology. Every human being is a personal soul. So we confess, “I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them” (Small Catechism, Creed, Explanation of the First Article). Because of our inherited sin, however, “the soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4). Nevertheless, God’s design is for life—eternal life. He declares, “I have no pleasure in the death of anyone” (18:32). Because God so loves you, He sent His Son to take away your sin by the shedding of His blood on the cross. Therefore, “we preach Christ crucified, . . . the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:23–24). Christ died to sin for you. By Holy Baptism, you died with Christ and are raised to new life in Him. The love of God is yours today by faith in the cross of Jesus Christ. The Father’s declaration of Jesus now becomes yours: “My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

PRELUDE *All Praise to Thee* (Hobby)

GREETING AND RINGING OF THE BELLS

♪ **OPENING HYMN** ↓ *All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine* **LSB 815**
All praise to Thee, for Thou, O King divine,
Didst yield the glory that of right was Thine,
That in our darkened hearts Thy grace might shine. Alleluia!

Thou cam’st to us in lowliness of thought;
By Thee the outcast and the poor were sought;
And by Thy death was God’s salvation wrought. Alleluia!

Let this mind be in us which was in Thee,
Who wast a servant that we might be free,
Humbling Thyself to death on Calvary. Alleluia!

2

Wherefore, by God’s eternal purpose, Thou
Art high exalted o’er all creatures now,
And giv’n the name to which all knees shall bow. Alleluia!

Let ev’ry tongue confess with one accord,
In heav’n and earth, that Jesus Christ is Lord,
And God the Father be by all adored. Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ~ Page 203 ↑

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. (Matthew 28:19)

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 124:8)

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (Psalm 130:3–4)

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: 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 Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. (John 20:19-23)

INTROIT FOR THE DAY ↑ (Psalm 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6)

Pastor: The Lord lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground.

Pastor: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

People: The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

Pastor: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

People: He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

Pastor: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.
All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: The Lord lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground.

♪ KYRIE ~ Page 204 ↑

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. (Mark 10:47)

♪ GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ~ Page 204 ↑

**To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth;
Good-will from God in heaven proclaimed at Jesus’ birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing --
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav’nly King.**

**To You, O sole-begotten, the Father’s Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; receive our heart-felt cry,
Where You in pow’r are seated at God’s right hand on high --**

**For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father’s glory. “Amen!” our glad reply.** (Luke 2:14; John1:29)

COLLECT OF THE DAY ↑

Pastor: The Lord be with you. (Ruth 2:4)

People: And also with you. (Luke 1:28)

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING ↓ Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 (ESV)

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.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING ↓ Philippians 2:1-18 (ESV)

¹If 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 rivalry 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 made himself nothing, 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 questioning, 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

♪ ALLELUIA and VERSE ~ Page 205 ↑

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

(John 20:31)

HOLY GOSPEL READING ↑

Matthew 21:23-27 (ESV)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] 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.”

Lector: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

♪ HYMN OF THE DAY ↓ *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* LSB 655

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; curb those who by deceit or sword

Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son and bring to naught all He has done.

**Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known, for You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we may sing your praise eternally.**

**O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife and lead us out of death to life.**

SERMON ↓

Who Are You?

NICENE CREED ~ Page 206 ↑

I believe in one God,

the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of His Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God,

begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father,

by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary

and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH ↑

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)



We welcome the opportunity to explain what we believe, teach and confess regarding the Lord's Supper. In order not to impose those beliefs on you, we ask that if you are not a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, you would speak with a Pastor before receiving Holy Communion.

PREFACE ~ Page 208 ↑

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly meet, right and salutary.....evermore praising you and saying:

♪ SANCTUS ~ Page 208 ↑

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored:

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING ~ Page 209 ↑

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER ~ Page 209 ↑

(Matthew 6:9-13)

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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD ~ Page 209 ↑

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and, when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI ~ Page 209 ↑

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

People: Amen.

(John 20:19)

♪ AGNUS DEI ~ Page 210 ↑

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, and grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(John 1:29)

♪ DISTRIBUTION ↓ *Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service* **LSB 848**
Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed,
We, Your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to Your purpose ev'ry gift that You impart.

Still Your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead,
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love Your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till Your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness, dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving, Your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to Your service, forth in Your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom may Your mercy know and live.

Jesus Comes Today with Healing

LSB 620

Jesus comes today with healing, knocking at my door, appealing,
Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace.
He Himself makes preparation, and I hear His invitation:
"Come and taste the blessed feast."

Christ Himself, the priest presiding, yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament,
Gives the bread of life, once broken, and the cup, the precious token
Of His sacred covenant.

Under bread and wine, though lowly, I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv'n for me,
Very Lamb of God from heaven, who to bitter death was given,
Hung upon the cursed tree.

God descends with heav'nly power, gives Himself to me this hour –
In this ordinary sign.
On my tongue His pledge receiving, I accept His grace, believing
That I taste His love divine.

Let me praise God's boundless favor, whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.
Wedding garments He provides me, with a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.

Now have I found consolation, comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev'ry terror, cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread

LSB 625

Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving Bread, may I in grace possess You.
Let me with holy food be fed, in hunger I address You.
Prepare me well for You, O Lord, and, humbly by my prayer implored,
Give me Your grace and mercy.

To pastures green, Lord, safely guide, to restful waters lead me;
Your table well for me provide, Your wounded hand now feed me.
Though weary, sinful, sick, and weak, refuge in You alone I seek,
To share Your cup of healing.

O bread of heav'n, my soul's delight, for full and free remission
I come with prayer before Your sight in sorrow and contrition.
Your righteousness, Lord, cover me that I receive You worthily,
Assured of Your full pardon.

I do not merit favor, Lord, my weight of sin would break me;
In all my guilty heart's discord, O Lord, do not forsake me.
In my distress this comforts me that You receive me graciously,
O Christ, my Lord of mercy!

BLESSING ~ Page 210 ↑

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in
body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

People: Amen.

♪ NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Page 211 ↑

O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding through all eternity.

COLLECT ~ Page 212 ↑

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste
of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us

firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION ~ Page 212 ↑

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

(Numbers 6:24-26)

♪ CLOSING HYMN ↑ *O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee* *LSB 632*

**O Jesus, blessed Lord, to Thee my heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed on me Thy body and Thy blood.**

**Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: what wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart: how blessed am I! How good Thou art!**

POSTLUDE *Old Hundredth* (Walther)