

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026



WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. David O. Stecker
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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 †

Service of Prayer and Preaching ~ LSB Page 260

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).

PRESERVICE ~ *Glorious Day*

I was buried beneath my shame. Who could carry that kind of weight?

It was my tomb 'til I met You.

I was breathing, but not alive, all my failures I tried to hide.

It was my tomb 'til I met You.

Chorus: **You called my name then I ran out of that grave.
 Out of the darkness into Your glorious day.
 You called my name and I ran out of that grave.
 Out of the darkness into Your glorious day.**

Now Your mercy has saved my soul, now Your freedom is all that I know.

The old made new, Jesus, when I met You. *Chorus*

I needed rescue, my sin was heavy, but chains break at the weight of Your glory.

I needed shelter, I was an orphan, but You call me a citizen of Heaven.

When I was broken, You were my healing,

Now Your love is the air that I'm breathing. I have a future, my eyes are open. *Chorus*

2 WELCOME / SHARING OF THE PEACE

OPENING SONG ~ *Jesus Paid it All*

**I hear the Savior say, “Thy strength indeed is small;
Child of weakness, watch and pray, find in Me thine all in all.”**

Refrain: **Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
 Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.**

**Lord, now indeed I find Thy pow’r, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper’s spots and melt the heart of stone.** *Refrain*

**And when before the throne I stand in Him complete,
Jesus died my soul to save my lips shall still repeat:** *Refrain*

OPENING VERSICLES

Pastor: This is the day which the Lord has made;

People: **let us rejoice and be glad in it.** (Psalm 118:24)

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: **the name of the Lord is to be praised.** (Psalm 113:3)

Pastor: Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

People: **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the
 tents of the wicked.** (Psalm 84:10)

Pastor: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

People: **Teach me Your paths** (Psalm 25:4)

Pastor: Sanctify us in Your truth.

People: **Your Word is truth.** (John 17:17)

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: **the name of the Lord is to be praised.** (Psalm 113:3)

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE ~ *Only King Forever*

**Our God, a firm foundation; our rock, the only solid ground as nations rise and fall.
Kingdoms once strong now shaken, but we trust forever in Your name,
The name of Jesus. We trust the name of Jesus.**

Chorus: **You are the only King forever, Almighty God we lift You higher,
 You are the only King forever. Forevermore, You are victorious.**

**Unmatched in all Your wisdom, in love and justice You will reign
And every knee will bow.**

**We bring our expectations, our hope is anchored in Your name,
The name of Jesus. We trust the name of Jesus.** *Chorus*

We lift our banner high, we lift the name of Jesus.

From age to age You reign, Your kingdom has no end. *Repeat, then Chorus*

† READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE †

PSALM 25:1-10

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

People: **O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies
exult over me.**

Pastor: Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed
who are wantonly treacherous.

People: **Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.**

Pastor: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for
you I wait all the day long.

People: **Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have
been from of old.**

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your
steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

People: **Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

Pastor: He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

People: **All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who
keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

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.**

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.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18 (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.

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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA



GOSPEL READING**Matthew 21:23-27 (ESV)**

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.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

(Psalm 119:89; 26:8; Luke 11:28)

Pastor: Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

People: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Pastor: Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

People: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

People: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty.
From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(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.**

SONG OF THE DAY ~ *No Longer Slaves*

**You unravel me, with a melody, You surround me with a song
Of deliverance, from my enemies, till all my fears have gone.**

Chorus: **I'm no longer a slave to fear - I am a child of God.
I'm no longer a slave to fear - I am a child of God.**

**From my mothers womb You have chosen me, love has called my name.
I've been born again, into a family, Your blood flows through my veins. *Chorus twice***

**I am surrounded by the arms of the father.
I am surrounded by songs of deliverance.
We've been liberated from our bondage.
We're the sons and the daughters - let us sing our freedom.**

**You split the sea so I could walk right through it.
My fears were drowned in perfect love.
You rescued me and I stand and sing - I am child of God. *Repeat then Chorus***

SERMON*The Motivation Behind the Question***Matthew 21:23-27****PRAYER**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

Pastor: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your Holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

All: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Psalm 103:1)

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG~ *The Blessing*

The Lord bless you and keep you,
 Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace. *Repeat*
 Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.

May His favor be upon you and a thousand generations,
 And your family and your children, and their children, and their children.
 May His presence go before you, and behind you, and beside you,
 All around you, and within you. He is with you, He is with you –
 In the morning, in the evening, in your coming, and your going,
 In your weeping, and rejoicing, He is for you, He is for you.
 He is for you, He is for you.
 Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.



Please remember to place your offering for the work of the Lord at Emanuel in the offering plate as you leave.