

September 27, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Christ's Lutheran Church
700 East Pennsylvania Avenue
Oreland, Pennsylvania

Regular Worship Schedule 10:30 am

*Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church
connects individuals to God, each other, and the community.*

Welcome to Worship at Christ's Lutheran Church!

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. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

Confession and 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.

Gathering Song

ELW # 430 | Rejoice, for Christ is King!



1 Re - joice, for Christ is king! Your Lord and king a - dore;
2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus reigns, the God of truth and love;
3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heav'n;
4 He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit



re - joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:
the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n:
and bow to his com - mand and fall be - neath his feet:

Refrain



Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; re -



joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

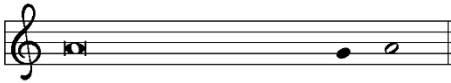
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: LAUS REGIS, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

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.

Kyrie

ELW Setting Four



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



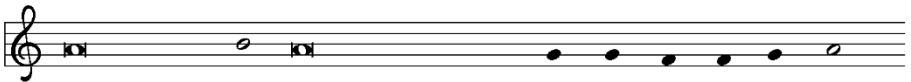
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.

Glory to God

ELW Setting Four



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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.**

Please be seated.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

A reading from Ezekiel, chapter 18.

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?

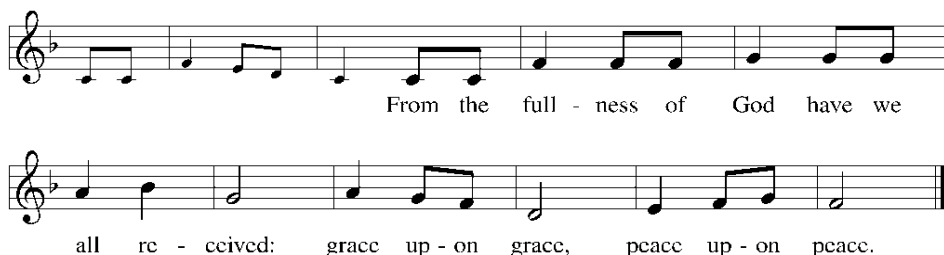
³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and 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.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9

DATH # 18 | From the Fullness of God

The congregation will sing the following response:



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.

Response

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.

Response

A reading from Philippians, chapter 2.

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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation
(sing twice)

Alleluia
ELW Setting Four



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.
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."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Children's Message

Pastor Axel Kaegler

A Moment of Prayer

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
ELW # 752



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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The Message

Pastor Axel Kaegler

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

Amen.

Please stand in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day ELW # 517 | Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Apostles' Creed

Together let us confess our common faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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.**

Please be seated.

Installation of Student Seminarian

Presentation

After prayerful deliberation, we have appointed Rich Hollenbach to serve in the position of Student Seminarian.

Address and Questions

Our Lord Jesus, who came among us as a servant, calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor. You come among us as one invited to render a particular service, a gift from God to inspire us to love and good works.

Rich, in the presence of this assembly
will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility,
in the confidence that it comes from God?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you carry out this ministry in accordance with the holy scriptures
and with the confessions of the Lutheran church
and in harmony with the constitutions
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures
and faithful in your use of the means of grace and in prayer?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Trusting in God's care,
will you seek to grow in love for those you serve,
strive for excellence in your skills,
and adorn the gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things,
graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.
Amen.

Please stand.

People of God, will you receive Rich into this ministry as one sent to serve in the church of Jesus Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for him, help and honor him for his work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Rich, I now declare you installed as our Student Seminarian. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be a faithful servant of Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, as you called apostles and evangelists, pastors and teachers to instruct, comfort, admonish, and care for us, so you have called Rich. Fill him with wisdom and patience, with love, and with faithfulness to your word, that he may with gladness teach, comfort, counsel, and guide your people to maturity in Christ Jesus, your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

People of God, I present to you Rich Hollenbach, our Student Seminarian. Let us welcome him in the name of Christ.

Please kneel or sit as you are able for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

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

A brief silence.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need. We pray especially for Bonnie, Pat, the Bach family, the Curtis and Davenport families, the Orrik family and the Duncan family. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Amen.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*You are invited to share God's peace with those around you
and to greet those who are worshipping online.*

Please be seated.

Musical Offering

"Halle, Halle, Halle"

arr. Hopson

Chancel Choir & Family Chorus

Please stand.

Offertory Hymn

Give Thanks

TFF # 292

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

Text: Henry Smith

Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

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Offering Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Gracious God, you have been faithful to our ancestors, bringing us throughout time to this very day

Beyond our divisions, you remind us that we are all kindred in your eyes

We are better together.

You have given us all we need to trust in your abundance, to live generous lives, and recognize that your good work is done best in communion with you and one another

We are better together.

And so in service to our neighbor, in love for all creation, and in proclamation of your good news for all:

We are better together.

Bless these gifts we've gathered, help us to remember all you have done, give us vision for all we can do, honest commitment to the call you've placed before us, and sincere trust that we can rely on your grace and sufficiency. Let us be your people, and serve the world in love as you first loved us. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

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.



A - men, a - men, a - - - men.



WMSD and MUSIC Assoc. PD

Prepared by www.DigitalSongAndHymns.com

Today's Music: *Our Sending Song* today was written by Washington Gladden in 1879. A pastor who had been serving for over 20 years, he had become very discouraged with his work, fatigued and feeling that no one seemed to care about his ministry. He also was experiencing personal and family problems. He decided to climb to the top of the church bell tower to be alone and think. He recalls that he thought about jumping from the ledge and his troubles would disappear. Instead, he wrote words that would eventually become a hymn that now appears in over 400 hymnals. He wrote "O master let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free. Tell me Thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care."

The Sending Song

O Master, Let Me Walk with You ELW # 818



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt.
Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

Your Prayers Are Invited

We hope you will add the following people to your personal prayers. Those who are listed for longer than 6 weeks can be found on the long-term prayer list through the link in the weekly e-news or the monthly Link newsletters. To add a name to the prayer list or provide an update, please contact the office.

Bach Family
Pat Hallman
Bonnie Zieger

The flowers on the altar today have been sponsored by
Shirley Engle in celebration of
Deb & Bill Quaco's 48th wedding anniversary
AND
by Jim & Mary Jane Brenneman in celebration of
Steve & Elaine Brenneman's 36th wedding anniversary!

Online Giving

To make an offering to support the work of Christ's Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, you may use this QR code to access our site for secure online giving.



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Christ's Lutheran Church
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Ministers	The People of Christ's Lutheran Church
Senior Pastor	Reverend Axel Kaegler
Director of Spiritual Formation	Becca Shelor
Director of Music	Ken Selinger
Piano Accompaniment	Betsy Selinger
Administrative Assistant	Lorraine Pfeiffer
Preschool Director	Sally Mead
Sexton	Pete Carr
Assisting Minister	Steve Seyfried
Soundboard	Diane Polis, Jon Rasmussen, John Frantz
Livestream	Rick Daniels, John Melnick, Paul Zieger
Counter(s)	Betty Messer
Closer	Kristen Christensen
Assisting Minister next Sunday	Don Hallman
Upcoming Altar Guild: October 4	Consy Finney

This Week at CLC!

Sunday	9:00 am	Family Tables (chapel)
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 am	Worship at CLC and online
Monday	9:30 am	Monday Morning Men
	10:00 am – 6:00 pm	PBJ Collection (chapel)
	11:00 am	CLC Yarners (200)
	7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 1 (PH)
Tuesday	9:00 am – 10:45 am	PBJ Collection (chapel)
	2:00 pm	Generosity Team (200)
	7:00 pm	Pub Theology (Tannery Run)
Wednesday	10:00 am	Bible Study (200)
	7:00 pm	AA (PH)
Friday		Fall Festival Set Up
	8:00 pm	AA (200)
Saturday	Noon – 4 pm	Fall Festival