



The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, A+D 2026



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

508 N. Chicago Road • Thornton, IL 60476

Landline: 708-877-6564

Church Cell: 312-533-1896

Email: stpaulthornton@outlook.com

Website: www.splcms.org

www.facebook.com/splcms

DIVINE SERVICE

Setting 3 – Page 184

Lutheran Service Book

The Cross of Christ Opens to Us the Way of Repentance to Life with God

The way of the Lord is righteous and just: “The soul who sins shall die” (Ezek. 18:4). However, because the Lord has “no pleasure in the death of anyone” (Ezek. 18:32), He calls sinners to repentance and faith in His gracious forgiveness of sins. The man who is thus turned away from his wickedness, who henceforth lives by the grace of God, “shall surely live; he shall not die” (Ezek. 18:28). This way of repentance has been opened for us by the cross of Christ. In the righteousness of faith and love, “he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death” (Phil. 2:8), and He was vindicated in His resurrection from the dead. Indeed, “God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name” (Phil. 2:9). He has given us this name in our Baptism into Christ, in whom we now “shine as lights in the world” (Phil. 2:15). He uses the authority that He has received from His Father (Matt. 21:23–27) to preach a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, by which even “the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God” (Matt. 21:31–32).

Ring of the Bells

Welcome

Confession and Absolution

698 May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Exhortation

184

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

LSB 185

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus

Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6

- P** The LORD lifts up the humble;
C he casts the wicked to the ground.
P Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
C for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.
P The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
C he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
P He heals the brokenhearted
C and binds up their wounds.
P He determines the number of the stars;
C he gives to all of them their names.
P Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
C his understanding is beyond measure.

Gloria Patri

LSB 186



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

- P** The LORD lifts up the humble;
C he casts the wicked to the ground.

Kyrie*LSB 186*

C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis*LSB 187*

P Glory be to God on high:

C and on earth peace, good - will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P 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.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

A The Old Testament Reading for The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost is from the eighteenth chapter of the prophecy of Ezekiel.

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."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18

A The Second Reading is from the second chapter of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians.

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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

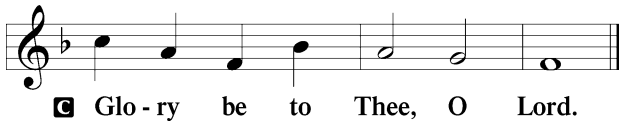
190



Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23–27

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



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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

159

C 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.

Sit

578 Thy Strong Word

Sermon: "What's Your Wish?"

1 Kings 3:4-15

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192





Sit

Gathering of Tithes & Offerings

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Responsive Form

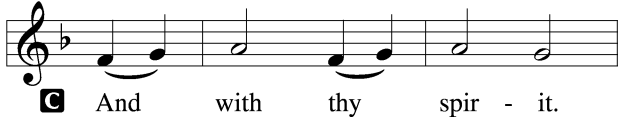
- P** ... Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194

- P** The Lord be with you.



- P** Lift up your hearts.



- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



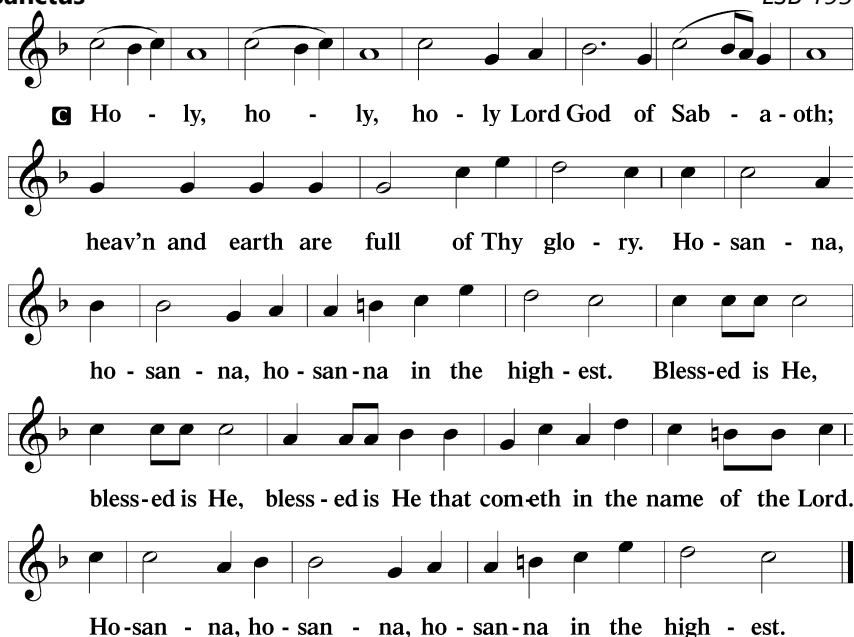
Proper Preface (Full)

- P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love

for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
 ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
 bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

196

P 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



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P 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. This do 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

LSB 197

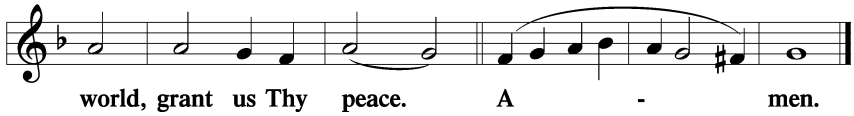
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



Agnus Dei

LSB 198





Sit

Distribution of Christ's Body and Blood

Members of other Christian denominations who are present may come forward to receive a blessing from the Pastor during the distribution. It is requested that you cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you desire this blessing.

Silent Prayer Just Before Communing: Dear Savior, at your gracious invitation, I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Silent Prayer Just After Communing: Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament. I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace the forgiveness of sins unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

629 What Is This Bread

637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

Stand

The Dismissal

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

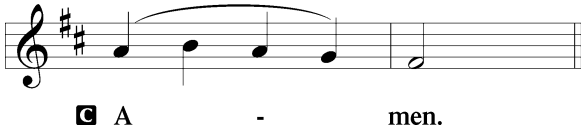
200

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
 and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us
 through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy
 You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You
 and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your

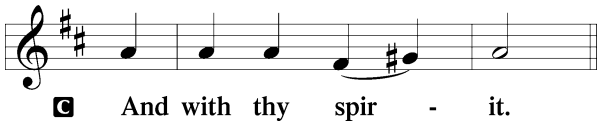
Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.



Salutation

LSB 201

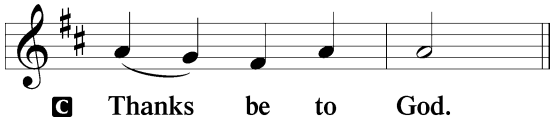
P The Lord be with you.



Benedicamus

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.



Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



923 Almighty Father, Bless the Word

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

Prayer of the church is adapted from "Let us Pray" a service of the Commission on Worship of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

DONATIONS**FOOD PANTRY****GENERAL FUND****WEB SITES****WWW.SPLCMS.ORG****THE GLAD SPIRIT**



The Glad Spirit

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

September 27, 2026

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

ST. PAUL'S FAMILY

Jolene Bruning
Justin Bruning
Sondra Budde
Chris Carr
Diana Carr
Nicholas & Dana Carr

BIRTHDAYS

Amelia Abel, 9/28
Barbara Hoeksema, 10/2
Judy Wilmington, 10/3

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

Steven Michels, 10/2
Joy Wilmington, 10/2

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

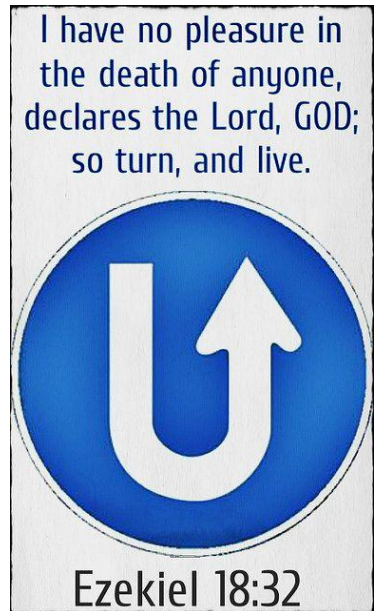
Richard & Janice Reichert, 9/27

SPECIAL CONCERNS

Pray for Diane Andrasco, Sandy Bodza, Sondra Budde, Pastor Collins, Carmen Dampier, Judy Diekleman, Shirley Emerick, Pastor Fluechtling, Latricia Harris, Ed Hoeksema Jr., Marge Loitz, Beverly Oaks, Chester Orendorff, Violet Rich, Pastor Simon, Bill Sommer, Dolly Tagenhorst, Warren & Chris Van Mynen, Jean and Gene Wiltjer, Ray Zander.

Serving in the Military – Austin Brandy, Dakota Gaut and Nathan Lopez.

Serving as First Responders – David Allen, Dave Bloom, Harrison & Arianna Cromeey, Brianne Giba, Melanie Hudson, Brian Orth, Dana Tatgenhorst, Taylor VanDommelen and Dan Zander.



NEWS UPDATE



Baby Girl Margaret Ann Schassburger
Born August 20, 2026 to Alec & Lauren Schassburger

Let's Get Moving! Want a fun way to get healthier alongside your brothers and sisters in Christ? Then join the Let's Get Moving Challenge organized by the LCMS Northern Illinois District! The 4week challenge is simple: move your body for 10 minutes a day, 5 days a week. If it gets you moving, it counts! No gym required, no special equipment – just move! Anyone in the Northern Illinois District can participate; all ages and abilities are welcome. Each week, submit an online check-in form to be entered for weekly prizes, courtesy of the District. The challenge runs from August 31 – September 27. Learn more details, get ideas on ways to move, and access the weekly check-in form, QR Code on right or at the Challenge webpage:



<https://www.nidlcms.org/lets-get-moving-challenge/>



St. Paul Book Club

Will meet on Tuesday October 13th at 10:00 am, to review *Counting Miracles* by Nicholas Sparks. We always welcome new members. We enjoy fellowship and lunch following the discussion.



In The Zoom Room

Monday – Friday Devotions

Portals of Prayer 8:00am to 8:15am

Lutheran Hour 8:00pm to 8:15pm

For the Link:

Call or Text Church Cell: 312-533-1896

Email: letsdiscuss@splcms.org

Saturday Bible Study

8:00 am – 9:00am Women of the Bible

Contact Co-Hosts for more info:

Casey: cjstone93@comcast.net

Deb: deb@splcms.org

Let's Discuss





Christ for You on KFUE.org the Week of September 27th
 Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m.)! Tune in to “The Reign of
 Heaven Stands Near” as we look at Matthew 26!

Issues, Etc. The Week of September 27th Equipping the Priesthood of All Believers...

Issues, Etc. is a podcast and
 radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio topics
 include: How to Read the Bible, Why Men Aren’t Marrying,

The No Contact Movement, Debate Over the Location of the Town of
 Bethsaida and more.



Authority of Jesus Is Questioned

When Jesus returned to the Temple and began teaching, the leading priests and
 elders came up to him. They demanded, “By what authority are you doing all these
 things? Who gave you the right?” Matthew 21:23 (NLT)



The puzzle is based on Matthew 21:23-32

```

E K Q T E Y U W K A N S W E R
Q E C G N I X W N P M X U I E
U R O D E B W O O X E P Z V G
E U U Y V C I Z W R Z O E S V
S J R H E A V E N I K I P G N
T X T K M M K A B F L E G L S
I P S K D O M C W E O Z O B E
O F R L L S Z Y B F N F Z E Y
N I S O I T E A C H I N G L P
X O Y T P D L C M O G T T D R
Q V P Q O H O K E Q Y V J E I
W A F H M Y E M N O E M W R E
B F G X Z N O T P Y K L K S S
H A F R A I D H T E M P L E T
M U P J K R C O A D Z W R G S
  
```

AFRAID
 TEMPLE
 HEAVEN

PEOPLE
 BAPTISM
 MEN

QUESTION
 KNOW
 ELDERS

TEACHING
 PRIESTS
 ANSWER

PROPHET
 BELIEVE
 COURTS

GOD'S PEOPLE IN ACTION

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS



September 20th Attendance X Communed, X Online

Envelopes	\$472.25	Weekly Missions	\$20.00
Basket	108.00	Luth. Church Charity	35.00
		Church Maint	10.00
		Social Ministry	110.00
Budgeted Total	580.25	Non-budgeted Total	\$ 175.00
Offering Needed	-1,342.00		
Short	(\$ 761.75)		



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Today	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:30 am	Coffee &...
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:30 am	Coffee &...

SERVANT SCHEDULE

	Sun, Sep 27, 9:30 AM	Sun, Oct 4, 9:30 AM
Pastor	Pastor Schmidtke	Pastor Mandel
Lay Reader	Tracy Middleton	Casey Stonerock

DONATIONS



FOOD PANTRY



GENERAL FUND

WEB SITES



WWW.SPLCMS.ORG



THE GLAD SPIRIT