

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost † † September 27, 2026

P - Pastor ♦ C - Congregation ♦ A - Assisting Minister
ELW-Evangelical Lutheran Worship-Red ♦ **WOV**-With One Voice-Blue

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

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 ELW# 733 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

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

P Lord have mercy.

C Lord have mercy.

P Christ have mercy.

C Christ have mercy.

P Lord have mercy.

C Lord have mercy.

HYMN OF PRAISE

For the Beauty of the Earth

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'For the Beauty of the Earth'. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with five verses numbered 1 through 5. The music is in a common time signature, and the overall style is simple and hymnic.

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Prayer of the Day

P 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.

C Amen.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

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.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 25:1-9

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.**

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.

SECOND READING:Philippians 2:1-13

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.

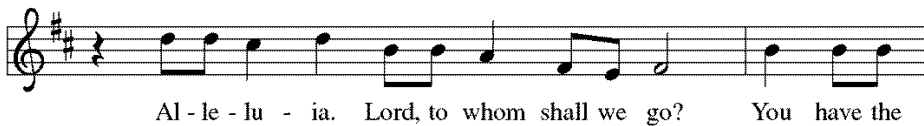
⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (please rise in body or spirit)



GOSPEL: Matthew Matthew 21:23-32

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 ELW # 517 *Lord, Keep Us in Your Steadfast Word*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

APOSTLES CREED (*please rise in body or spirit*)

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at

the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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. Give them the gift of humility. 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. 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.

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERING  (please rise in body or spirit)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

LORD'S PRAYER 

Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

SENDING

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN ELW # 638 *Blessed Assurance*

POSTLUDE

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This week please hold in prayer: Mary Lou Zwiebel, Paul & Connie Long, Ed Panning, Lee Weirauch, Bob Lulfs, Ken Lange, Oneta Wiechers, Matt VonSeggern, Jude Gerken, Linda Hill, Scott Vasher, Terry Roehl, Joanne Neu, Natalie Long, Nancy Bressler, Cheryl Huffman, Rupert Schwienhagen, Jeanne Aderman, for all those on our hearts and minds, and for peace in our nation and the whole world.

Altar Flowers

Are given to the Glory of God

Henry County Historical Society is holding an Afternoon Tea at First Presbyterian Church 303 W. Washington St. Napoleon, OH 43545, in support of Breast Cancer Awareness on Sunday 10.11.26 at 1:30 pm. This event will be catered by Mama Mir's Kitchen and reservations are required. Call Lois at 419-966-6781 for reservations. Cost is a free will donation with all proceeds going to The American Cancer Society.

Altar Flower Price Increase

Due to rising costs, the altar flowers will now be \$35 each starting July 5th. Please make note of this and increase your payment. If you're unable or unwilling to make this price jump, just let us know and we will update the list. Additionally, remember to bring the container back to Emanuel so it can be reused. On weeks that flowers have not been ordered, we will use a silk arrangement that matches the season. Thank you!

September Caring Corner will be collecting book bags to donate to local schools. Many children like starting out the new school year with a new book bag or may need a new one during the year when the one they have breaks down. This can be a pricey school item for some families so we will be delivering these collected bags to area schools to be distributed to students who are in need. We will also be collecting food items for local pantries as the need is great.

October Caring Corner will once again be collecting coats, hats, and gloves. Be thinking ahead to this worthy cause when cleaning out your closet.

Office Hours Are Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:30-5:00 and Tuesday and Thursday 7:30am-2:30 pm.

Church Attendance 9/17/26 **22**, 9/20/26 **56**, online **60**.

*The number used is the Viewers number at the beginning of the week. This reflects anyone who has watched it up until then.

This Week

Wednesday	9/30/26	1 pm 5 pm	Open Office Hours Soul Food
Thursday	10/1/26	9:30am 7:00 pm	Bible Study Worship
Sunday	10/4/26	9am 10am	Worship Sunday School

