

18th Sunday after Pentecost September 27, 2026

Welcome

P This is the day that the Lord has made!

C Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P 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.**

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. **Amen.**

Greeting

P 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.**

Praise Songs

The Strong Name of Jesus

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Chorus:

Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;
And leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.

Repeat Chorus

When I stand in glory I will see His face,
And there I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.

Repeat Chorus

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

- 1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
- 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
- 3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Prayer of the Day

P 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.**

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

First Reading ***Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32***

Ezekiel, I hear the people of Israel using the old saying, "Sour grapes eaten by parents leave a sour taste in the mouths of their children."

Now tell them that I am the Lord God, and as surely as I live, that saying will no longer be used in Israel. The lives of all people belong to me—parents as well as children. However, only those who sin will be put to death.

You people of Israel accuse me of being unfair! But listen—I'm not unfair; you are! If good people start doing evil, they must be put to death, because they have sinned. And if wicked people start doing right, they will save themselves from punishment. They will think

about what they've done and stop sinning, and so they won't be put to death. But you still say that I am unfair. You are the ones who have done wrong and are unfair!

I will judge each of you for what you've done. So stop sinning, or else you will certainly be punished. Give up your evil ways and start thinking pure thoughts. And be faithful to me! Do you really want to be put to death for your sins? I, the Lord God, don't want to see that happen to anyone. So stop sinning and live!

...This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9

¹I offer you my heart, LORD God, and I trust you.

²**Don't make me ashamed or let enemies defeat me.**

³Don't disappoint any of your worshipers, but disappoint all deceitful liars.

⁴**Show me your paths and teach me to follow;**

⁵guide me by your truth and instruct me. You keep me safe, and I always trust you.

⁶**Please, LORD, remember, you have always been patient and kind.**

⁷Forget each wrong I did when I was young. Show how truly kind you are and remember me.

⁸**You are honest and merciful, and you teach sinners how to follow your path.**

⁹You lead humble people to do what is right and to stay on your path.

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-13

Christ encourages you, and his love comforts you. God's Spirit unites you, and you are concerned for others. Now make me completely happy! Live in harmony by showing love for each other. Be united in what you think, as if you were only one person. Don't be jealous or proud, but be humble and consider others more important than yourselves. Care about them as much as you care about yourselves and think the same way that Christ Jesus thought:

Christ was truly God. But he did not try to remain equal with God. Instead he gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us.

Christ was humble. He obeyed God and even died on a cross. Then God gave Christ the highest place and honored his name above all others.

So at the name of Jesus everyone will bow down, those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. And to the glory of God the Father everyone will openly agree, "Jesus Christ is Lord!"

My dear friends, you always obeyed when I was with you. Now that I am away, you should obey even more. So work with fear and trembling to discover what it really means to be saved. God is working in you to make you willing and able to obey him.

... This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

Please stand as you are able

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel ***Matthew 21:23-32***

Jesus had gone into the temple and was teaching when the chief priests and the leaders of the people came up to him. They asked, "What right do you have to do these things? Who gave you this authority?"

Jesus answered, "I have just one question to ask you. If you answer it, I will tell you where I got the right to do these things. Who gave John the right to baptize? Was it God in heaven or merely some human being?"

They thought it over and said to each other, "We can't say God gave John this right. Jesus will ask us why we didn't believe John. On the other hand, these people think John was a prophet, and we are afraid of what they might do to us. That's why we can't say it was merely some human who gave John the right to baptize." So they told Jesus, "We don't know." Jesus said, "Then I won't tell you who gave me the right to do what I do."

Jesus said: I will tell you a story about a man who had two sons. Then you can tell me what you think. The father went to the older son and said, "Go work in the vineyard today!" His son told him he would not do it, but later he changed his mind and went. The man then told his younger son to go work in the vineyard. The boy said he would, but he didn't go. Which one of the sons obeyed his father?

"The older one," the chief priests and leaders answered.

Then Jesus told them: You can be sure tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you ever will! When John the Baptist showed you how to do right, you would not believe him. But these evil people did believe. And even when you saw what they did, you still would not change your minds and believe.

...The Gospel of the Lord.

(sung) Praise to you, O Christ.

Choir Anthem ***Great Day***

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *(next page)*

Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
 Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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The Apostles' Creed

A Let us profess our faith through the words of the Apostles Creed.

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 to the dead. 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 the Church

A 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. Grant us your salvation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those impacted by war and violence, for our men and women in the armed forces, and for all first responders. We also ask for your blessing on Glenda and Arlen, and for those for whom we now pray, either in our hearts or aloud:

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bless the ministries of TOL, Augustana, Good Shepherd, and Pr. Sohail's South Asian Community. Change our hearts 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.**

Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn (*sung*):

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray. **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.**

{P Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!}

Communion Song

Please be seated

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion: Please be seated until the usher directs your row to the communion rail. Please come to the communion rail and stand or kneel. If you do not wish to receive communion, please come for a blessing. All who share our confession that Christ is present in the Sacrament are welcome to join us at the Lord's table. White grape juice is available in the center of the communion cup tray. If you would like a gluten free wafer, please let Pastor know.

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Post-Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Blessing

P 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. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn (next page)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

Dismissal

A Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C Thanks be to God.

MINISTERS: All the Members of Our Congregation
Leading Worship Today: Charlie Schmidtke
Church Office: 716-836-4868 Office Email:
trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com
Website: www.trinityoldlutheran.com
Music Minister: Don Grabau Media Minister: Jeff Ward
Worship Assistant: Earlene Crocker
Prayer Partner: Charlie Schmidtke

Prayers and Announcements

Prayers

Welcome: We extend a very warm welcome to everyone worshiping with us today. If you are visiting, we are delighted to have you here, and we hope you enjoy your worship time here with us.

Thank you: To Charlie Schmidtke, for leading us in worship today. We look forward to hearing your message, Charlie!

Prayer Partner Ministry: If you are in need of additional prayer, please come to the Parents' Room in the back of church following worship. Prayers are confidential. Today's prayer partner is Charlie Schmidtke.

Today's Altar Flowers: The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God from Sandra and Gene Covelli in loving memory of their son, Gino, on his birthday, and from Debbie Feger in loving memory of her mom on her 98th birthday.

Offering: Thank you for your gifts to TOL. There is an offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. If you send your offering through the US mail, please use checks only-please don't mail cash. We also have online giving through tithe.ly, which can be accessed through TOL's website (www.trinityoldlutheran.com) or on your smartphone.

Mission for September: The mission for September is Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service), who provides resources and guidance to help forge a way forward for new Americans. Please see the full article in the September Tidings. Please use the marked envelopes in the narthex, or mail your donations to the church office (indicate on your check that it is designated for Global Refuge). Donations can also be made through [tithely](http://tithely.org). Thank you.

4th Annual Harvest House Baby Shower: Now through the end of October, we are joining with other local Lutheran churches in collecting diapers, baby wipes, new children's socks, bottles and feeding supplies. Please place your items in the marked container in the donation basket in the hallway. Thank you for your continued support.

Adult Education Fall 2026 through Spring 2027: The classes begin **tomorrow at 1 pm**, in person and on Zoom. The focus will be on religious leaders, led by Charlie Schmidtke. The first two classes are as follows.

Monday, Sept. 28 Maimonides – Andalusia

Monday, Oct. 19 The Apostles

Thank you: To everyone who helped with the craft sale, basket raffle, baked goods sale and book sale last weekend! We are so grateful for all the volunteers who made everything run so smoothly and we ended up with a very successful event.

Book Club at Augustana: All are invited to discuss the book *The Calamity Club* written by Kathryn Stockett, this **Thursday, Oct. 1 at 6:30 pm**.

Adult Retreat: Please see the article in the September Tidings about the upcoming Adult Retreat which will take place at beautiful Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center next weekend, **October 2 - 4**. Please see Charlie Schmidtke if you have any questions.

Fall Outdoor Vendor Event at Good Shepherd: Will be held next **Saturday, Oct. 3** from 10 am till 3 pm. Stop by and visit the vendors and take a chance on the basket raffle. Homemade chowder and chili will be available for sale, as well as hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and drinks.

Grief Support Meeting at TOL: For those who have experienced the death of a child or grandchild. We meet the first Tuesday of each month, next on **Tuesday, Oct. 6**. Please see Charlie or Diane Schmidtke for a Zoom link. The meetings begin at 10 am.

Tri-Congregation Team Meeting at TOL: On **Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 7 pm**, there will be a meeting of the three teams to continue our work toward merging our three congregations: Liturgy/Communication, Mission/Ministry, Legal/Finance. We will continue to keep you informed of new developments.

TOL Fall Chicken Chowder: Volunteers are needed for soup prep on **Friday, Oct. 23** and the day of the sale, which is **Saturday, Oct. 24**. See the chart in the narthex for how you can help with donations of soup ingredients. Please speak to Matt Grabau.

Curtains Up: On **Saturday, Nov. 7**, please join us at Ellicott Creek Playhouse for a live performance of “Man of LaMancha.” There is a sign up sheet on the main bulletin board, and there are 30 seats available.

Devotionals: If you would like a “Christ in Our Home” devotional for **October through December 2026**, please pick one up in the narthex or call the church office.

Thank You for your Continuing Support of these ministries:

- Non-perishable food items for the food pantry at Good Shepherd.
- Aluminum can pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House – bin in hallway.
- Dash's Tapes for the Niagara Lutheran Health System – bin in hallway.
- Cans and bottles to be recycled – barrel in hallway.
- Clothing and hygiene items for Friends of Night People– blue barrel.
- Items or cash donations for Operation Christmas Child boxes – bin in hallway.

This week's calendar

<i>Please notify the Church Office of any schedule changes, member illness, prayer request, etc., so church staff can respond accordingly.</i> <i>Office hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 am–12 noon.</i>	Sun	9/27	9:30 am 11 am 3:30 pm 4:15 pm 7 pm	Worship Service at Augustana Worship Service at TOL Abiding Faith Worship So. Asian Women's Prayer GA Meeting
	Mon	9/28	10 am 1 pm 4:00 pm 5:45 pm 6:30 pm	OA Meeting Adult Ed Sandwich Team #6 Yoga AA
	Tues	9/29	5:45 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Chair Yoga Eta Sigma CoDA
	Wed	9/30	5:45 pm	Yoga Flow
	Thur	10/1	9:30 am 5:45 pm 6:30 pm 7 pm	Yoga Yoga Book Club at Augustana GA Meeting
	Fri	10/2	10 am	LCLC Adult Retreat begins South Asian Lutheran Community
	Sat	10/3	All day 10-3 pm	LCLC Adult Retreat Good Shepherd Vendor Event
	Sun	10/4	9:30 am 11 am 3:30 pm 7 pm	Adult Retreat ends Worship at Augustana Worship at TOL Abiding Faith Worship GA Meeting

TOL's Free WiFi and Password:

N7W7y; Password = limp82hewer43dig

