St. Timothy Lutheran Church

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 27, 2026
9:30 AM

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

St. Timothy Lutheran joyfully welcomes all people of any race, national origin, age, gender, ability, relationship status, political affiliation or sexual orientation, whether you are a believer, doubter or seeker. We welcome all because God welcomes all. Sharing and learning from our different experiences and ideas about life and faith, we live the love of Christ together.

CALL TO WORSHIP ..... *Peals of Praise*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please stand if you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Compassionate God,
We confess to you all the sin that weighs us down. We are burdened by self-serving attitudes, we claim your power as our own, we hurt others with greed and disrespect, we knowingly and unknowingly hoard the gifts of your grace. In your mercy replace our sin with your freeing love; for your yoke is easy and burden is light. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN..... **"God is Here"**..... **#526**

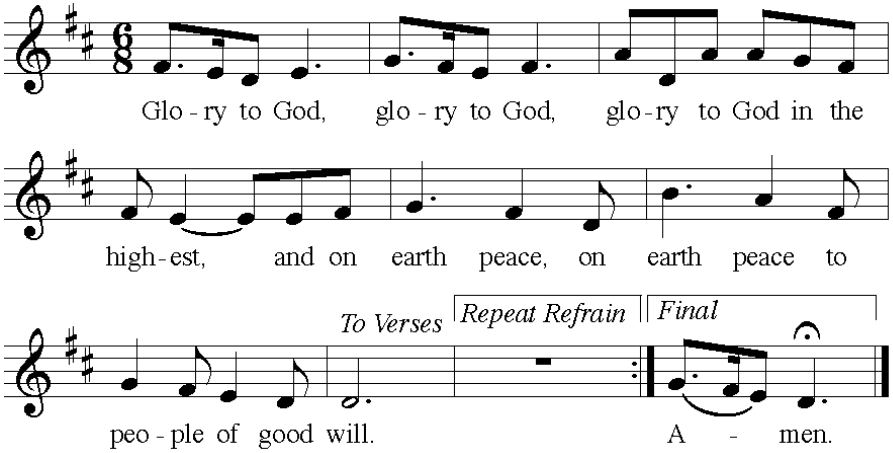
GREETING

The grace of our lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

And also with you.

GLORY TO GOD

Choir sings verses, congregation sings refrain



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

CHILDREN'S ACCLAMATION

Cast your burdens - unto Jesus
For He cares - for you
Higher higher higher
Higher higher higher
Higher higher higher
Lift Jesus higher higher

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Please be seated.

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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.

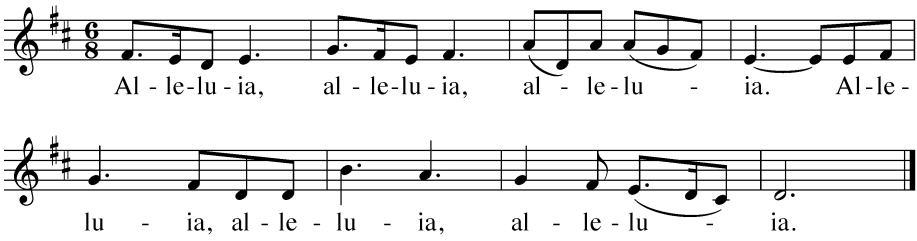
[9] Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
[10] so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
[11] and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

[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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-first chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING .....*Matthew 21:23-32*

[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.

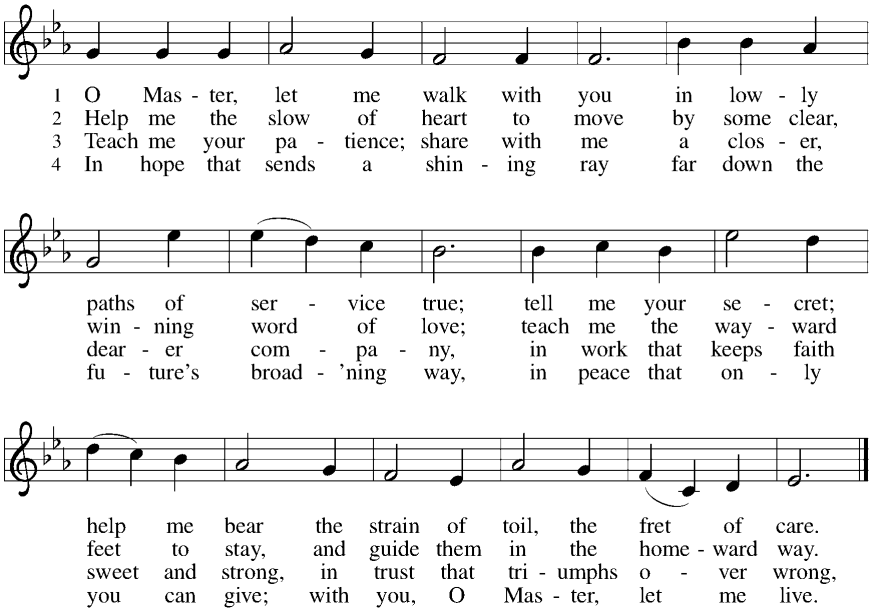
[28] “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ [29] He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. [30] The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. [31] Which 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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ..... *Pastor Jason*

Please stand if you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY……**“O Master, Let Me Walk With You”**..... **#818**



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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The pastor will end each petition with:
Lord, in your mercy,
The congregation is invited to respond with:
Receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY.....“A Prayer for Humility” .....*Patterson*

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God, we bring to your table the gifts of our hearts and our best efforts to respond to your generosity. Help us let go and take heart. It is your grace that moves our offering to bless the world you so love. Receive these gifts, and make of them more than we could ask or imagine, through the Spirit who abides with us, now and forever. **Amen**.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy…we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

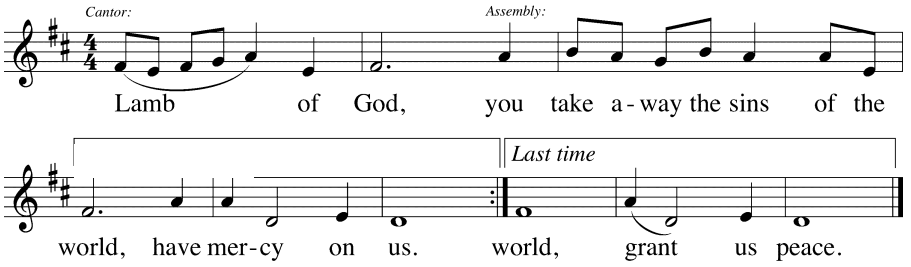
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Distribution of Communion

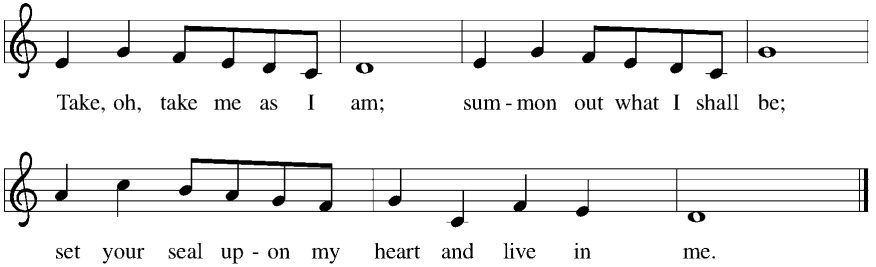
All people are invited to the Lord's table of grace. We offer Holy Communion by individual glass, ***the red glasses are filled with wine and the white glasses are grape juice****.* ***Gluten free*** *wafers are available from a pastor upon request. If you prefer to receive communion at your pew, just let the usher know. Children who have not yet received Holy Communion instruction are invited forward to receive a blessing as well as anyone who doesn't want to receive communion.*

LAMB OF GOD



Repeat 3 times

COMMUNION HYMN….**"Take, Oh Take Me As I Am"**……...**#814**



Please stand if you are able.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen**.

BLESSING

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**.

SENDING HYMN ..... **"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"** ..... **#538**

DISMISSAL

People of God, what are we called to do? **Live the love of Christ!**
In that love, go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

If you are a visitor, we welcome you as siblings in Christ as together we "Live the love of Christ." We are happy you are here, and we would like to get to know you. As you leave the sanctuary, we invite you to introduce yourself to the pastors and complete a yellow "Visitor Card". You may give the card to one of the pastors or drop it in the offering plate.

If you wish to request prayers for yourself, family members or friends, please email them to prayerline@sttimothylutheran.com. Our Prayer Line members will join you in praying for anyone who needs your prayers.

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

Pastors:	Jason Anderson, Lead Pastor Sarah Swindall, Associate Pastor
Staff:	Christina Maki, Children's Ministry Coordinator Derek Howell, AV Tech Coordinator Joe Menard, Organist / Choir & Bell Director Kirsten Holzhauer, Keyboardist / Accompanist Nicole Goodfellow, Ministries Coordinator Susie Merrihew, Licensed Clinical Social Worker Susan Moraski, Office Administrator

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