

Pentecost 15

September 6, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 18 (Year A)

Jesus warned his followers that anyone who caused a child (or one who is childlike in faith) to stumble in the faith would have a worse fate than having a millstone hung around his neck and being thrown into the sea. Followers of Christ are called to be humble and to receive the childlike with grace and mercy, even as they are called to be like children who are in awe of the kingdom of heaven.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9**A Spiritual Watchman**

The Lord appointed the prophet Ezekiel to be a spiritual watchman over the people of Israel. If Ezekiel failed to warn them about their wicked behavior, he would be responsible for them. However, if the prophet were to warn them and they proceeded in their evil ways, he would not be held responsible.

Psalm 32:1-7**Rejoice in the Lord**

The psalmist sang praises to the Lord because he had experienced the wondrous forgiveness of the Lord. Blessed are those whose sins are not held against them! When the psalmist confessed his sin, the Lord forgave all his iniquities.

Second Reading: Romans 13:1-10**God Appoints and Works Via Civil Authority**

Paul explained to the Romans that there is no higher authority than God and that all in positions of authority are subject to Him. Therefore, humans are not to resist civil authority, for the civil authorities are God's servants for the good of the community. This includes the paying of taxes for the fulfilling of the law. Paul urged believers to owe no one anything, but to love one another with a holy love.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:1-20**Humble Like a Child**

Jesus was asked a question by his disciples about who was the greatest in the kingdom. In response to this question, Jesus pulled a young child onto his lap and pointed to him as the epitome of faith. In order to be great in the kingdom, he instructed his followers, one must humble himself like a child.

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: Green

During the Season of Pentecost:

• Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.

• Use the Apostles' Creed.

Luther wrote about being a servant of God, citing Galatians 5:13, "Through love be servants of one another." He explained that being servants to one another is the highest form of freedom, for "it lacks nothing and receives nothing, but rather gives and bestows." He goes on to say that Paul had this very thing in mind when he said, "Owe no one anything, except to love one another" (LW 25:474, Lectures on Romans).

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
God is So Good	---	---	---	---	27	27
Jesus Loves Me!	---	---	588	595	258	258
Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love	---	765	---	708	---	---
Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now	253	---	902	527	44	44
Holy God, We Praise Your Name	535	---	940	414	13	13
Every Time I Feel the Spirit	---	---	---	---	---	web
Go, My Children, With My Blessing	---	721	922	543	53	53
In Christ There is No East or West	359	---	653	650	---	---
On My Heart Imprint Your Image	102	---	422	811	52	52
Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling	---	734	---	608	177	177

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

You Are My King (Amazing Love)
(CCLI# 2456623)
Here is Love
(CCLI# 3287884)
Watchman
(CCLI# 5462463)
Humble Thyself in the Sight ...
(CCLI# 26564)
Let the Children Come
(CCLI# 4243717)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.