

Pentecost 18

September 27, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 21 (Year A)

Throughout salvation history, humans have struggled with sour grapes, failing to act mercifully toward one another. God's ways of love and mercy are an enigma to the sinful human heart. Even though, like the psalmist, we desire to know and follow God's ways, it is hard for us to reach unity, and we balk at the notion of emptying ourselves as Christ did on the cross. Still, Christ calls us to come to him in faith so that we might serve the world he loves and thereby glorify his holy name.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**Who is Unjust?**

The Word of Lord came to the prophet Ezekiel, to set Israel straight on who was just and who was unjust. Who was turning from righteousness? Israel, not God. And who was being wicked? "Turn to me and repent," said the Lord, "and you will not die." The Lord wants no one to die, but all to live, and to live in righteousness in him.

Psalm 25:1-10**Teach Me Your Ways**

The psalmist cried out to the Lord, "Teach me your paths and make me know your ways!" He sang that the Lord instructs his people in his ways that they may not sin. He leads those who are humble, those who keep his covenant. His faithfulness is sure and certain.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-4 (5-13) 14-18**One Mind with Christ**

St. Paul admonished the Christians in Philippi to be of the same mind as Christ, putting away all quarrels so that they may be found innocent in the sight of God. In a creedlike statement, Paul talked about how Christ emptied himself, taking on the form of a human, a servant who was obedient unto death on a cross.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:23-27 (28-32)**By Whose Authority?**

The religious leaders approached Jesus as he was teaching in the temple. They wanted to know by whose authority he was speaking. Jesus turned things around by posing a question of his own concerning the source of John the Baptist's ministry. The leaders were caught in a conundrum because of popular opinion that John was a prophet.

Suggestions for the Day:*Liturgical Color: Green**During the Season of Pentecost:*

- Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.

Being open about disunity and conflict in the parish can be a healing word in the midst of internal trials. Consider inviting worshipers to remember what the passing of the peace is truly about: reconciliation in Christ Jesus our Lord, who brings us together as his people for a definite purpose.

In October, consider using the series of Reformation skits each Sunday. These can be found on the Pentecost Fall Seasonal Page of SOWeR.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
At the Name of Jesus	179	---	512	416	127	127
What Wondrous Love is This	385	---	543	666	254	254
Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult	494	---	---	696	184	184
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us	481	---	711	789	205	205
Lead Me, Guide Me	---	---	721	768	---	---
You Servants of God	252	---	---	825	---	web
When Peace Like a River	346	---	763	785	224	224
The Church's One Foundation	369	---	644	654	88	88
O God, My Faithful God	504	---	696	---	238	238
O Bread of Life From Heaven	222	---	---	480	84	84

*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

Mind of Christ
(CCLI# 1391456)
The Lord Reigns
(CCLI# 4659820)
10,000 Reasons
(CCLI# 6016351)
Forever Reign
(CCLI# 5639997)
Open the Eyes of My Heart
(CCLI# 2298355)

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