



Sunday, September 27, 2026
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Service Theme

REAL REPENTANCE IS MORE THAN SORROW

We expect someone to look sorry when they are caught doing something wrong. Real Repentance, however, is more than that. Not only does God desire our repentance to demonstrate sincere sorrow over sin, He wants us to trust in the grace and forgiveness He shows us in Christ. In response to that forgiving mercy, He wants us to love and obey Him.



Divine Word
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526 What Wondrous Love Is This

CW 526



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm



this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse
 down be-neath God's right-eous frown, Christ laid a-side his crown
 Lamb, who is the great I AM, while mil-lions join the theme,
 free, I'll sing his love for me, and through e-ter-ni-ty



for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
 for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side his crown for my soul.
 I will sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
 I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, Lynchburg, 1811, alt. Tune: Southern Harmony, New Haven, 1835, ed. William Walker. Text and tune: Public domain.

The Service

Setting One (page 154)

Invocation

CW 154

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 155

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count
against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed what we have devised and
desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your
holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have
done,**

**and we have not done those things that we
should have done.**

Have mercy on us, Lord!

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

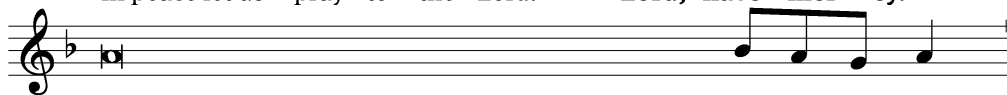
God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy



In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



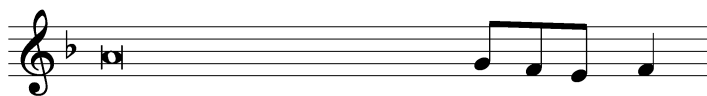
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra - cious Lord.



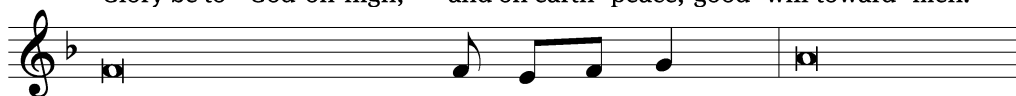
A - men.

Glory Be to God on High

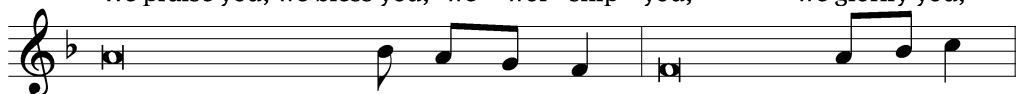
CW 157



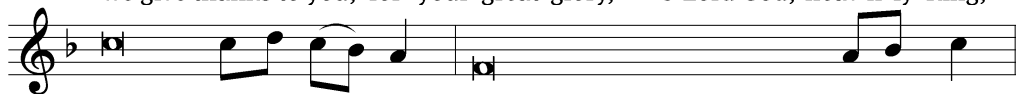
Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



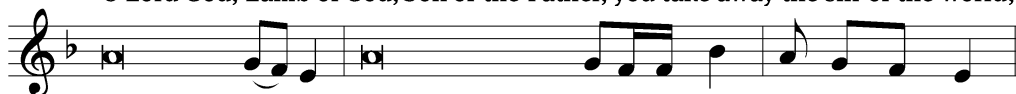
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



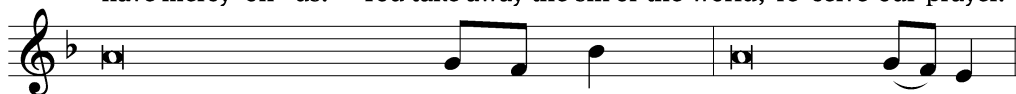
God the Fa-ther Al-mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



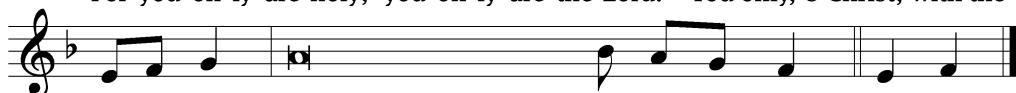
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1–4,25–32

A strong warning to Christians who have grown dismissive of their sin.

¹The word of the LORD came to me:

²What do you mean, you who keep repeating this proverb concerning the soil of Israel, “Fathers eat sour grapes, and their sons’ teeth are set on edge”? ³As surely as I live, declares the LORD God, you will never again use this proverb in Israel.

⁴Indeed, all souls are mine. The soul of the father is mine just like the soul of the son. The soul who sins is the one who will die.

²⁵But you say, “The Lord’s way is not fair.” Listen now, house of Israel. Is it my way that is not fair? Is it not your ways that are not fair? ²⁶If a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and practices unrighteousness, he will die because of it. Because of the unrighteousness that he has practiced, he will die.

²⁷But if a wicked man turns from his wickedness that he has done and practices justice and righteousness, he will preserve his life. ²⁸Because he has seen and turned away from all the rebellious acts that he had committed, he will surely live, and he will not die. ²⁹But the house of Israel says, “The Lord’s way is not fair.” Is it really my ways that are not fair, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not fair?

³⁰Therefore, I will judge each one of you according to his ways, O house of Israel, declares the LORD God. Repent and turn away from all your rebellious acts, so that you will not set out a stumbling block that makes you guilty. ³¹Throw off from yourselves all your rebellious actions by which you have rebelled, and obtain a new heart and a new spirit for yourselves. Why should you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, declares the LORD God. So repent and live!

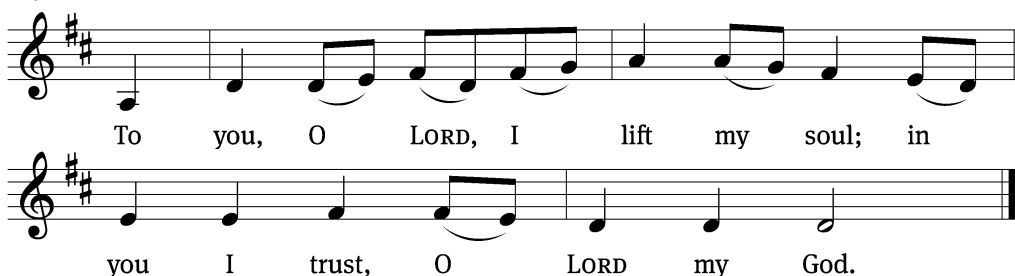
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

25A To You, O LORD, I Lift My Soul

Psalm 25A

Refrain



Tone



In you, LORD my God, I / put my trust.

I trust in you; do not let me be / put to shame.

Show me your ways, LORD, teach me / your paths.

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God
my / Savior.

Remember, LORD, your great mer- / cy and love,
for they are / from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth and my re- /
bellious ways;

according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, /
are good. *Refrain*

LORD, forgive my iniquity, though / it is great.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and af- /
flicted.

Look on my affliction and / my distress
and take away / all my sins.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Tune: Mark Haas. Setting: Mark Haas. Music: © 2014 Mark Haas. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1–11

*Moved by Christ's love and empowered by the Spirit, we seek to imitate the
humility of Jesus.*

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one mind. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility consider one another better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look carefully not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

⁵Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. ⁶Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, ⁷but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

CW 161



Refrain



Tone



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Gospel

Matthew 21:23–32

Sincere love for God involves not just saying what God wants to hear but doing what God wants done.

²³When Jesus went into the temple courts, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him while he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things?” and “Who gave you this authority?”

²⁴Jesus answered them, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer it, I will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, where was it from? From heaven or from men?”

They discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Then why did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘From men,’ we are afraid of the crowd, since they all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.”

He said to them, “Then I will not tell you by what authority I do these things.”

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in my vineyard.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰He came to the second and said the same thing. The second son answered, 'I will go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?"

They said to him, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Amen I tell you: The tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.

³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, but you did not believe him. However, the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him. Even when you saw this, you did not change your mind and believe him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

655 Before You, God, the Judge of All

CW 655



1 Be - fore you, God, the judge of all, with grief and shame I
 2 O Lord, my God, to you I pray: O cast me not in
 3 O Je - sus, let your pre-cious blood be to my soul a
 hum - bly fall. I see my sins a - gainst you, Lord,
 wrath a - way! Let your good Spir - it ne'er de - part,
 cleans - ing flood. Turn not, O Lord, your guest a - way,
 my sins of thought and deed and word. They press me
 but let him draw to you my heart that tru - ly
 but grant that jus - ti - fied I may go to my
 sore; to you I flee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
 pen - i - tent I be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
 house at peace to be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

Repent and Live!

- 1) God's judgments are just.
- 2) He mercifully desires your salvation.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies,
especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have
revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit
and his working through the means of grace.

**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit
in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, *[especially . . .]*. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, *[especially . . .]*. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

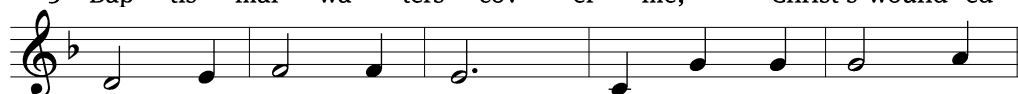
Offertory Prayer

657 Baptismal Waters Cover Me

CW 657



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me as I ap -
2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, his bod - y
3 Lord, may your wound - ed hand im - part your heal - ing
4 From your own mouth comes forth a word; your shep - herd
5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



proach on bend - ed knee; my Fa - ther's mer - cy
bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore him
to my bro - ken heart; your love a - lone can
speaks, but you are heard; through him your hand now
hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



here I plead, for griev - ous sins of thought and deed.
all my sin, my dark - est se - crets from with - in.
form in me a heart that serves you joy - ful - ly.
stretch - es out, for - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.
strong em - brace, with joy I praise him for his grace.

Text: Kurt E. Reinhardt, b. 1969. Tune: Sammlung alter und neuer . . . Melodien, 1742. Text: © 2003 Kurt E. Reinhardt. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723. Tune: Public domain.

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
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 on you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.**

588 Come, O Come, Life-Giving Spirit

CW 588

1 Come, O come, life - giv - ing Spir - it, God from all e -
 2 Show us, Lord, the path of bless - ing; when we tres - pass
 3 Spir - it, guard our faith for - ev - er; let not Sa - tan,
 4 And when life's frail thread is break - ing, then as - sure us

ter - ni - ty! May your pow - er nev - er fail us;
 on our way, cast, O Lord, our sins be - hind you
 death, or shame ev - er part us from our Sav - ior.
 more and more, as the heirs of life un - end - ing,

dwell with - in us con - stant - ly. Then shall truth and
 and be with us day by day. Should we stray, O
 Lord, our ref - uge is your name! When our hearts op -
 of the glo - ry there in store, glo - ry nev - er

life and light ban - ish all the gloom of night.
 Lord, re - call; work re - pent - ance when we fall.
 pose your will, let your Word prove strong - er still.
 yet ex - pressed, glo - ry of the saints at rest.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–1659, abr.; tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–1896, alt. Tune: attr. Johann Christoph Bach, 1642–1702, Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693, alt. Text and tune: Public domain.

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Announcements

Church Cleaners

October 4 – John / October 11 – Simon

Thanksgiving Flowers

Anyone wishing to help beautify the Altar for Thanksgiving, please drop off the plant(s) of your choice (traditionally mums) to the church by Saturday, October 10th at 9 am. You are welcomed to take your plants home after the worship services or, if you wish, you may leave them at church to continue to beautify the altar for upcoming worship services.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (27)	9:00 am	Sunday School / Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship
	11:45 am	Voters' Meeting
Th (1)	10:30 am	Longfields Manor Devotion
Fr (2)	3:00 pm	Women's Bible Study
Sa (3)	10:00 am	Communicating Christ Bible Class
Su (4)	9:00 am	Sunday School / Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship
	11:30 am	First Fellowship
	3:00 pm	Worship in Poltimore
	4:00 pm	Youth Confirmation in Poltimore
Fr (9)	3:00 pm	Women's Bible Study
	6:00 pm	Friday Fellowship
Sa (10)	10:00 am	Communicating Christ Bible Class
Su (11)	9:00 am	Sunday School / Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship