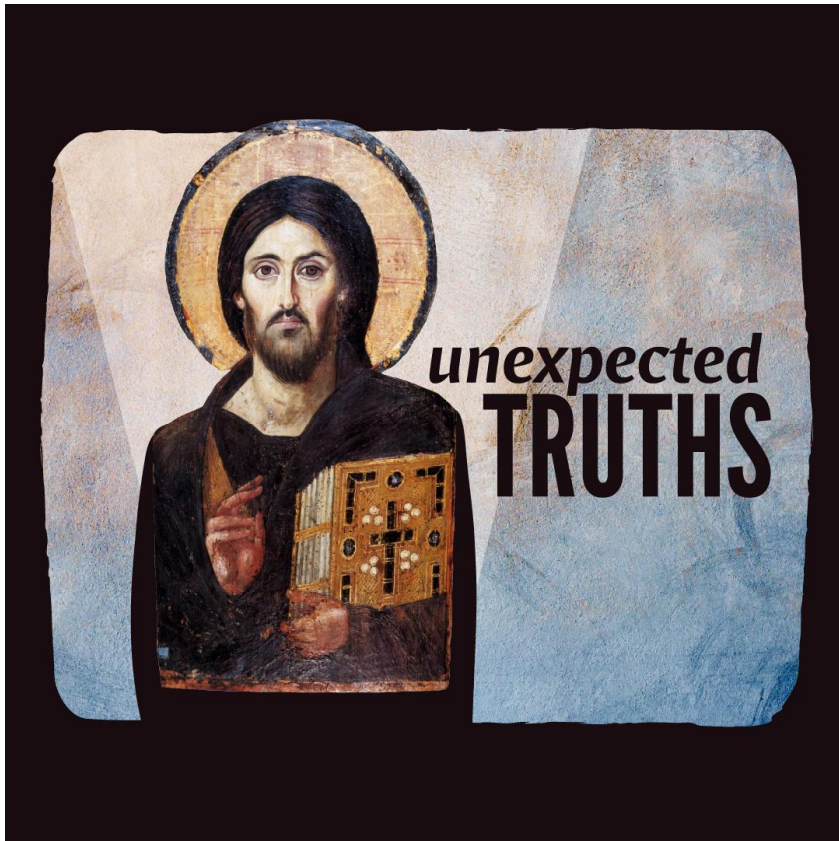




Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Real Repentance Looks Different

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church | *Jordan, Minnesota*

September 27, 2026

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! In our service we gather before our almighty and saving God to offer him our worship and praise. We also assemble to hear God’s holy and powerful word and celebrate his life-giving sacraments. Through these means, God strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with him.

TODAY’S THEME

It might be expected for someone to look sorry when they are caught doing something wrong. You might even see tears and hear words of apology. But you might not be surprised if the shock of being caught wears off and so does the intensity of the repentance. Real repentance looks different. God doesn’t want us to simply go through religious motions like some sort of show. God’s desire is that our repentance would demonstrate sincere sorry over sin. It might be unexpected, but God wants us to see the grace and forgiveness he has shown us in Christ, and in response, to love him back deeply and sincerely.

Guest Pastor.....Jeff Schone
Accompanist.....Lois Zander

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 172

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

CW 172

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord God,



heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

For you a -

lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ,
 with the Ho-ly Spir-it in the glo-ry of
 God the Fa-ther. A-men. A-men.
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his
 peo-ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen

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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.

Be seated

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1–4,25–32

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

The word of the LORD came to me: What 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”? As surely as I live, declares the LORD God, you will never again use this proverb in Israel. Indeed, 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. But 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? If 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. But if a wicked man turns from his wickedness that he has done and practices justice and righteousness, he will preserve his life. Because he has seen and turned away from all the rebellious acts that he had committed, he will surely live, and he will not die. But 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? Therefore, 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. Throw 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? For 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

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1–11

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

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility consider one another better than yourselves. Let each of you look carefully not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, but 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, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and 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.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 51:17



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spir - it;



Refrain

a broken and contrite heart you will not de - spise.

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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.

When 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?” Jesus answered them, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer it, I will tell you by what authority I do these things. The 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?’ But if we say, ‘From men,’ we are afraid of the crowd, since they all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” He said to them, “Then I will not tell you by what authority I do these things.” “What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in my vineyard.’ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. He came to the second and said the same thing. The second son answered, ‘I will go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which 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. For 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!

Be seated

547 At the Name of Jesus

CW 547

Sermon

Stand

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.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ.
Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Offering

During the offering, please fill out the Friendship Register in the pew and pass it down to those sitting next to you.

657 Baptismal Waters Cover Me

CW 657

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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, 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.

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

Acknowledgments

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News & Notes

Radio Broadcast

The radio broadcast is sponsored by the members of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Thank you!

Apologetics Bible Study

The Apologetics study meets today after worship. We will continue with the study of Islam next week.

Fall Fishing Event

Join us at the Mill Pond on October 4 at 11:30 am for a Fall Fishing Event. There will be prizes and a hot dog lunch. All ages are invited. Bring a fishing rod or use one of the spares. Bait is provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Senior Fellowship

Senior Fellowship meets on October 1 in the Fireside Room. Come and share some coffee and conversation!

Fall LWMS Rally

HELP NEEDED! The rally is this coming Saturday! We are looking for volunteers to help with our upcoming Fall LWMS Rally, as well as food donations. There are still plenty of duties to sign up for. A sign-up sheet is in the binder near the Fellowship Hall. Questions can be directed to any Woven member.

Reflections Bible Study

There will be no Reflections Bible study in October. Reflections will resume November 10th at 6:30 pm. We will be studying "Time – It is a Gift!"

Rad Zoo

The Lutheran Girl Pioneers invites you to join them for a presentation by the traveling "Rad Zoo". The presentation takes place on Sunday, September 27th from 2-3 pm. It is being held at Saint Peter Lutheran Church, 427 W Mulberry St, Saint Peter. A light snack will be provided. Questions can be directed to lgpdistrict19@gmail.com or Jill Jahn.

OCTOBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Senior Fellowship 10 AM	2	3
4 Worship 9 am Communion Bible Study 10:15 am	5 Worship 7 pm Chor 7:45 pm	6	7 Foundations 6 pm Woven 6 pm	8	9	10
11 Worship 9 am Fellowship Sunday Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 am	12 Worship 7 pm Chor 7:45 pm	13 6:30 Council Meeting	14	15	16	17
18 Worship 9 am Communion Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 am	19 7 pm Worship 7:45 Choir	20 9:45 am Oak Terrace	21 Foundation 6 pm	22 6:30 pm Theology on Tap	23	24
25 Worship 9 am Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 am	26 7 pm Worship 7:45 Choir	27	28 Foundations 6 pm	29	30	31

SERVING THE LORD

Acolytes			Ushers	Media Booth	Organist
9/27	9 am	(Need Volunteer)	3	(Need Volunteer)	Noah Helke
10/4	9 am	Leah Bertrang	4	Ryan Bertrang	-
10/11	9 am	(Need Volunteer)	1	(Need Volunteer)	Lois Zander

October Altar Guild	October Cleaners
Jodi Bertrang/Amy Radick	Rebekah Jensvold
October Counters	Service Group 3 Leader
Norma Bendzick/Connie Jabs	Dianne Jabs
November Altar Guild	
Angela Ambroz/Nancy Stocker/Brenda Stocker	

Attendance	
Sunday	92
Monday	9
Total	101

Gifts To Our Lord		
	Received	Needed
Current	\$1842	\$3834
Online Giving	\$1316	
Total	\$3158	\$3834



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