

***WELCOME TO WORSHIP
AT
WHITNALL PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH***



***Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost
Sunday, September 27th, 2026***

Pastor Michael Fazio is presiding.

We have come together today as members and guests to worship God and celebrate new life in Jesus Christ. We hope our worship will be uplifting and provide a source of hope and strength for the week ahead.

If you believe that the Lord is truly present for us in the Sacrament in body and blood for the forgiveness of sin, you are welcome to join us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

As the prelude is a time of preparation, please consider quietly meditating on these words of the Psalm during this time of reflection.

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)

CALL TO WORSHIP *416 At the Name of Jesus Vs 1*

- 1 At the name of Jesus ev'ry knee shall bow,
ev'ry tongue confess him king of glory now.
It is God's good pleasure we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as Pastor begins.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the ☩ Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the $\mp$ Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN 526 *God Is Here!*

- 1 God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
 may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
 Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
 wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.
- 2 Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
 here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
 Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
 here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.
- 3 Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
 here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
 Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
 what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.
- 4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,
 keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
 Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive.
 We, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and
 the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE *ELW 155*

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *Glory to God in the Highest ELW Setting 3 Pg 139*

Cantor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth

All: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray 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.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING *a reading from Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32*

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

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. This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-9

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemy's triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING a reading from Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

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. This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *ELW 142 Setting 3*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal Life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel *according to Matthew 21:23-32*

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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 Our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 818 *O Master, Let Me Walk With You*

- 1 O Master, let me walk with you in lowly paths of service true;
tell me your secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
- 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.
- 3 Teach me your patience; share with me a closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong,
- 4 In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broad'ning way,
in peace that only you can give; with you, O Master, let me live.

HYMN DURING HEALING 614 *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING ~ *Those who wish for a time of personal prayer please come forward at this time.*



APOSTLE'S 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

A: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

a brief silence.

A: Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Show all your love and Grace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need . . . Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY HYMN *182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

**Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.**

**Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.**

**Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray . . . **Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *ELW Setting 4 Pg 153*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father; endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and at the end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and place and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C: 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.**

COMMUNION

THE BODY OF CHRIST, GIVEN FOR YOU. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, SHED FOR YOU.

*As we accept the Lord's gift of His body and blood, we will receive Him in our
prefilled cups containing the wafer and juice or by intinction in the fullness of
faith that God's love and grace have been poured into these holy elements.
One Body, One Mind, One Lord Jesus Christ. This is God's precious gift for you.*

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God Setting 3 Page 146*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS *462 Now We Join in Celebration* *468 Around You, O Lord Jesus*

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
in His grace.

C: Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *208 Praise To You, O God of Mercy!*

**Praise to you, O God of Mercy, Thanks be to You forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly, Thanks be to You forever!
Thanks be to you forever!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray . . . We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty God, Father, Son and ✠ Holy Spirit bless you, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *776 What God Ordains Is Good Indeed*

- 1 What God ordains is good indeed, for all life well providing.
The will of God is best for me, the ground of my confiding.
My faithful God, on ev'ry road
you know the way unfolding and my hand you are holding.
- 2 What God ordains is good indeed: my light, my life, my Savior!
No ill can get the best of me; God's care will never waver.
Through joy and pain I shall attain
the dawn disclosing clearly that God has loved me dearly.
- 3 What God ordains is good indeed. When hope seems like delusion,
I taste the bitter cup and plead, "Lord, quench my fear, confusion."
God ends the night, restores delight;
by faith I face tomorrow and yield to God all sorrow.
- 4 What God ordains is good indeed. My Lord will never fail me
on danger's path, in deepest need, when death in grief shall veil me.
My God so dear will draw me near,
in loving arms will hold me, at last in light enfold me.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace Share the Good News!

C: Thanks be to God.

