

18th Sunday after Pentecost | September 27, 2026 | 10:45 AM

✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

SONG SET *Michael Amidei, Infinite Grace Team*

Please refer to the screens for the song lyrics.

Reckless Love
Run to the Father

P = Pastor C = Congregation L = Lector

INVOCATION *Pastor Brad Stoltenow*

Matthew 28:19b

Pastor (P): We call on the name of the Triune God—the name into which we have been baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen!

CONFESSION OF SIN AND FORGIVENESS

SONG Blessed Assurance

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 *Dave Hudson, Lector*

The word of the LORD came to me:

“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine: the soul who sins shall die....

“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is My way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are My ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions,

lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING Philippians 2:1-18

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to Him as He was teaching, and said, “By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?” Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?”

And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’

He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them,

"Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. 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 when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT

Let's get to know each other better! Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code. You may add prayer requests to your information. The cards may be put in the offering plate. Thank you!

CHILDREN'S CHAT Pastor Brad

Children's Bulletins are available on the table as you enter the Gym.

OFFERING¹ AND PRAYER for giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give

¹Mites Sunday (4th Sundays): A mite was a small coin of little value. Tiny amounts of money gathered together and given in faith and trust back to the Lord will do "mite-y" acts in His kingdom! For a history and explanation of mite boxes, and to deposit your change for this vital mission, look for the Mite Box in the sanctuary Welcome Center. You may add your coins to this mission box at any time of the month!

SONG | Surrender All

MESSAGE "What Do You Mean, God Is Not Just?" Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE APOSTLES' CREED

ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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!

PRAYERS

Please stand for the Lord's Prayer and Blessing.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

ALL: 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!

GOD'S WORD OF BLESSING

In this Divine Service, by the gift of faith, the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds to receive His graces. We now leave this house of worship to share His story!

Please be seated for the Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING SONG Jesus Messiah

✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠

TOGETHER, we are Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church and Early Learning Center.

Called into faith, as baptized and beloved children of God,

TOGETHER we:

- + worship one God: Father, Lord, Spirit
 - + joyfully celebrate our unity
 - + willingly submit to our Creator
 - + lovingly care for one another
 - + seek to serve our community
 - + walk in hope toward heaven
- And all God's people said: AMEN!



Lord, lay some soul upon my heart and love that soul through me;
and may I gladly do my part to win that soul for Thee. Amen!

CONNECT CARDS Guests and members, please:

- + fill out a Connect card, or
- + scan the QR code to connect with us online

Cards are on clipboards at the end of a row. These methods include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors.

We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with YOU!

