

Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost ~ September 27, 2026

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W Grandview Blvd, Erie Pa 16506

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor

Sheryl Williams, Coordinator of Music

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

WELCOME

We invite you to quietly prepare your hearts and minds for worship.
(please turn off your cell phone)

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please stand

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

**We confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty.**

In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

**We confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ~ ELW 720 *We Are Called*

GREETING

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

HYMN of PRAISE ~ *Glory to God* cont'd pg. 3

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace
to God's 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 God's 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 God's 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 God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER of the DAY

Lord be with you. And also with you. Let's Pray Together. **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. Amen.**

Please be seated

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 25:1-9 Sung Responsively **Tone 1**

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 enemies 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 compas- | sion 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
good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹ **You lead the low- | ly in justice and teach
the low- | ly your way.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ Celtic Alleluia



GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew Chapter 21. **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?'"

cont'd

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."

Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ ELW 772 *O, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*

APOSTLES' 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

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

Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need. We pray especially for: family & friends of Trudy and family & friends of Gilda. Also: Shirley, Larry K, Donna G., Carolyn, Brian & Penny, Candy & Arch, Sam, Jared, Joy, Priscila, Don, Joan, Pat K., Connie, Christine P., Cheryl, Ed & Jeanne, Cindy & Rich, Harry & Susan, Dick & Diana, Kathi, Maury & Linda, Don & Donna, Damian & Marcia, the Little Library visitors, and for all in our hearts. Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Amen.

PEACE ~ The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you**

Please be seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING ~ CHOIR: *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* Spiritual/Arr. H. Hopson

Please stand

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ ELW 531 *The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. **Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

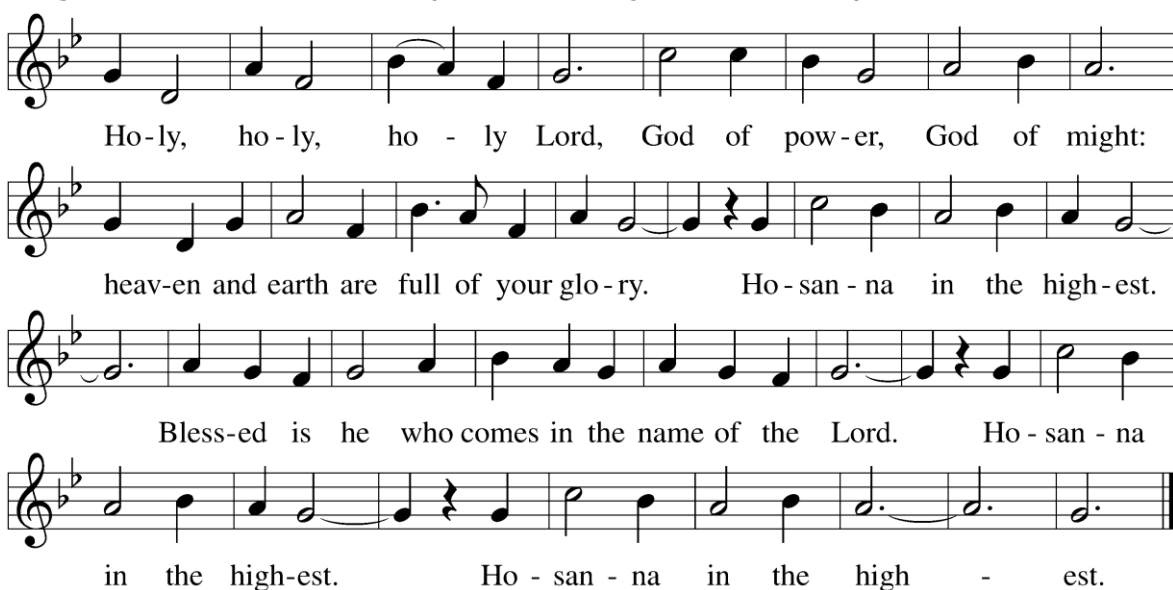
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

We celebrate the Holy Spirit, who hovered over creation and brought order out of formlessness. We celebrate the Divine Spirit, who filled Jesus with power and wisdom and, through him, made divine life available to all. We celebrate the Spirit, who has been poured out on all people, and leads us into the Kingdom of God. And so, as we gather at this table, we recognize the Spirit's Presence among us, and we open our hearts to the Spirit's influence. Together, we offer our praise and join in the hymn of all creation:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might:
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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 for the 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 for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every 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. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Amen

Please be seated

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

L

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMNS ~ Pgs. 10 & 11

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!

You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
stripped of might up - on the cross,
sit in pow - er at God's side.
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!

You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;

of the way you took and gave.
beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
have a love that reach - es wide.
wor - thy still your peace and strife.

You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;

you, whom we both scorn and crave.
you, who are both gift and cost.
you, who are our pil - grim and guide.
you, who are our death and life.

Jesus, Name Above All Names

1. Je sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful Sav - ior,
2. Je sus, lov - ing Shep - herd, Vine of the branch - es,
3. Praise him, Lord a - bove all lords, King a - bove all kings,
glo - ri - ous Lord. Em - man - u - el, God is with us,
Son of God. Prince of Peace, Won - der - ful Coun - se - lor,
God's on - ly Son. The Prince of Peace, who by his Spir - it
bless - ed Re - deem - er, Liv - ing Word.
Lord of the u - ni - verse, Light of the world.
comes to live in us, Mas - ter and Friend.

Instrumental Meditation

Please stand

PASTORAL BLESSING

May the body and blood of our ☩ Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: **Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ~ ELW 538 *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

DISMISSAL ~ Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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PARISH NOTES ~ September 27, 2026

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Please keep in your prayers: The family & friends of Trudy Mueller and the family & friends of Gilda. Also: Donna Graham, Larry Kozlowski, Shirley Englert, Carolyn Hayes, Brian & Penny Gresh, Candy & Arch Watkins, Sam Elder, Jared Semrau, Joy, Priscila Mirone, Don Morey, Joan Doehrel, Pat Kerr, Connie Kerr-Vogt, Cheryl Hicks, Christine Petrone, Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Cindy & Rich Filson, Dick & Diana Stoker, Harry & Susan Speakman, Kathy Sinnott, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Don & Donna Holder and Little Library visitors.

Sunday, September 27: Worship-9:30a, Choir-9a & 10:45a

Bible Study-11a

Monday, September 28: Prayer Shawls @ **12n. ALL** are Welcome.

Thursday, October 1: Care & Share @ 1p with Damian. **ALL** are Welcome.

Sunday, October 4: Worship-9:30a, Choir-9a & 10:45a

Bible Study-11a Zoom Bible is on hiatus

Thursday, October 7: Care & Share @ 1p with Damian. A **visit to the sacristy** to learn **"Why We Do .. What We Do on the Altar"**. **ALL** are **WELCOME**

Little Free Library: There are really no words to express the overwhelming gratitude for all the financial gifts given to the Library this past month. Please read the October newsletter for details regarding how your donations were used and how they are already impacting our neighborhood! Our Little Library is a busy place!

Little Jesus Project: An easy way to be an Ambassador for Christ is to leave a Little Jesus in a public place to be found by someone passing by! They are located in a basket under the monitor in the Narthex—help yourself!

A request: When using the **restrooms sinks to dispose** of your **left-over coffee**, **please kindly rinse** the **sink** of coffee droplets...*Thank you!*

Office Hours: Mon & Tues, 9:30a-3:30p. Wed. 9:30-12:30p

For Pastoral emergencies, please contact Pastor Karen @ 814-881-3266

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up and request forms are on the table in narthex.

Worship Leaders – September 27, 2026

Videographer	Andy Saska
Greeter/Coffee	Jo Zeimet
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Bob Hicks
Lector/Prayers	Judi Pacileo
Presenter	Donna Holder
Presenter	Lois Kuhns
Communion Cups	Analee Cree
Communion Tray	Linda Allen
Usher	Andy Saska
Usher	Jay Zeimet
Counters	Jo & Andy