

Bulletin -September 27, 2026

CONSIDER THIS

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.

Prelude *Blessed Be Your Name with At the Name of Jesus*
Redman, Noel, Mountain (arr. Tornquist)

Offertory *O Blessed Spring* English Hymn
(arr. Floeter)

Postlude *All for Jesus* Simpson, Bell
Tune Setting by John A. Behnke



Entrance ACS Hymn #1084 *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
 2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
 es - en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
 light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967

Music: GREEN TYLER, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

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Hymn of the day #818 *O Master, Let Me Walk with You*

Communion Hymns

447 *O Blessed Spring*

814 *Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am*

Sending Hymn #776 *What God Ordains is Good Indeed*

PRAYER OF THE DAY...Let us pray.

A 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 Lesson: 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.

A reading from Ezekiel

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.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

READ RESPONSIVELY BY WHOLE VERSE

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.**

⁵Lead 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.**

⁷Remember 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.**

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

Second Lesson: 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.

A reading from Philippians

¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let 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.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 21st
Chapter

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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to You O Christ

Apostles Creed

THE PRAYERS

A Hear us, O God.

C 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.

C Amen

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

CO-MINISTERS OF MUSIC - Jenny Sustak & Faith Smeck

YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTER - Kellen Michalowski

ALTAR CARE – Sue Bennick; Sandy Dinger

USHERS - Doug Womer, Ed Shadle, Rick Frazier,

Chris Bair, Joe Boslet, Dave Featherman

COMMUNION ASST Randy Whitaker; Emmor Boslet

WORSHIP ASSISTANT 8:15 Randy Whitaker

CANTOR

LECTOR - Randy Whitaker; Linda Walker

FLOWER DELIVERY - Sherry Davis

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Dave Stanton

NURSERY SCHL DIR. Jessica Broome 717-827--8104

SEXTON - Don Young

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MEALS-ON-WHEELS: Want to give back to your community and help seniors that are in need of meals. The Area Agency on Aging is looking for volunteers. Meal delivery is one day a month and only takes about 1 ½ hours. All homes are in the Colonial Park area. If you are interested, please call Rich Krampe at 717-307-1060. Help give seniors in our community a nutritious meal. Tell Rich you are a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Altar Flowers are in honor of Dennis Dinger & Emma Klick's birthdays and in memory of Arlene Dinger and Marlin Shade, Jr. Given by Sandy Dinger.

Communion Bread & Wine in honor of grandson, Chandler Lawyer's 21st birthday. Given by Doug & Laurie Womer.

Thank you for all the cards and prayers that were sent during Michele's illness and funeral. She is now at peace.

Chuck Morgan

The original card can be seen on bulletin board at Abraham's table.

Nursery School will be selling Gertrude Hawk candy for Christmas. The order form will be on Abraham's Table, October 4, 2026. The orders & money will be due by October 26, 2026.

OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. MARK'S THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	09/27	8:15 am	Worship
		9:45 am	Intergenerational Sunday School
		9:45 am	St Mark's Minis
		11:00 am	Worship
		7:00 pm	AA
		7:00 pm	Gambler's Anon
MONDAY	09/28		
TUESDAY	09/29		
WEDNESDAY	09/30	10:00 am	Bible Study
THURSDAY	10/01	1:00 pm	Craft Artisans
		1:30 pm	Christian Ed
		2:30 pm	Community Outreach
FRIDAY	10/02		
SATURDAY	10/03		
SUNDAY	10/04	8:15 am	Worship
		9:45 am	Intergenerational Sunday School
		9:45 am	St Mark's Minis
		11:00 am	Worship
		3:00 pm	Pet Blessing
		7:00 pm	AA
		7:00 pm	Gambler's Anon