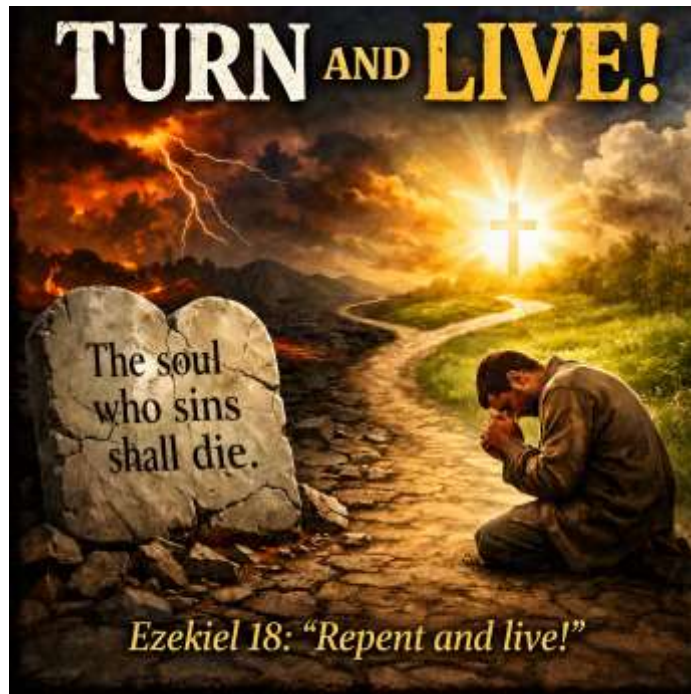




**St. Luke's
Lutheran Church**



4801 Anderson Ave.
Manhattan, KS 66503
785-539-2604
www.stlukesmanhattan.org

Sharing Jesus Christ's love with those around us.

Sunday, September 27, 2026 – 11:00 AM

*Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, Sr. Pastor
William Prann, Director of Christian Education
Gretchen Hartsook, Director of Music*

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

(Series A)

WELCOME

We are glad you are here to worship our Savior with us. Please remember to turn your cell phone to silence. Restrooms are on the west side of the sanctuary. Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office through email, office@stlukesmanhattan.org, or by calling 785-539-2604. On Communion Sundays, if you need non-gluten wafers at communion, or need to have communion brought to you, please notify the elder who is serving. We hope you will join us again so that you may experience Jesus.

AS WE GATHER

Ezekiel 18 confronts us with the sober truth that each of us stands accountable before God for our own sin. Yet the Lord who judges is also the Lord who calls: He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desires that sinners turn and live. Some among us come today burdened by sins we have committed; others come wounded by sins committed against us. But all of us come before the God whose mercy is stronger than our guilt and whose compassion is deeper than our pain. In Christ, who bore our death and rose to give us life, God grants the new heart and new spirit He promises. As we gather, we hear His call to repentance, trust His steadfast love, and rejoice that in Jesus we are forgiven, restored, and made alive to walk in His ways.

IMAGE ON THE COVER

The image portrays the message of **Ezekiel 18** – the contrast between sin’s death and God’s call to repentance and life. The repentant figure turning toward the radiant cross embodies the Lord’s plea: “*Turn, and live.*”

PRELUDE

Please use this time to prayerfully prepare your hearts to enter into the presence of Jesus

✠A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE✠

WELCOME

OPENING SONG – “Everything to You” 1 Chronicles 29:24-28

- 1 Who am I? Nothing but a shadow
Cast by Your loving light, pure white
Search my heart, find the truth within me
All that I have I give to You for Your holy purpose
- 2, 4 I give everything to You, Lord, all I have
When I am empty how You fill me up
I give everything to You, Lord, all I am
With a joyful heart I give my life to You
- 3 Touch my soul, Spirit, live within me
Let my one desire be You, Lord, You
From Your hand, Father, You have given
All that I am I give to You, forever Your servant
(Used by permission CCLI #288089)

Stand

(The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** All souls are the Lord’s—
C and His pleasure is life.
- P** His way is just and true—
C His mercy turns the heart.
- P** “Turn, and live,” declares our God—
C for He delights to save.

- P** He gives His Son for sinners—
C whose cross and rising give us life.

CONFESSION

- P** Beloved in the Lord, we come before God who is perfectly just and abundantly merciful. His Word exposes our hearts and calls us to turn and live. Let us confess our sins with humility and faith.

Lord God, You declare that all souls are Yours and that the soul who sins shall die. Yet we have blamed others for our sins, excused our guilt, hardened our hearts, and questioned Your authority when You called.

- C** **Forgive us, Lord.**

- P** You call us to walk in Your truth, to lift up our souls to You, and to trust Your steadfast love. Yet our hearts have wandered, our desires have strayed, our paths have been crooked, and we have lived for ourselves rather than with the mind of Christ.

- C** **Forgive us, Lord.**

- P** And, O Lord, we confess our sinful nature—our pride, our blame-shifting, our coldness toward our neighbor, our reluctance to repent, and the death that clings so closely.

- C** **Forgive us, Lord.**

ABSOLUTION

- P** Almighty God, in His perfect justice and overflowing mercy, has no pleasure in the death of the dying. He delights to give life. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, who humbled Himself to the point of death—even death on a cross—so that your sins might be forgiven and you might live.

Because of Christ's death and resurrection, none of your transgressions are remembered. By His authority, and in His stead, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- C** **Amen.**

- P** Turn and live, for the Lord is good and upright; He lifts up the humble and leads sinners in His way.
- C** **Amen.**

INTROIT

Psalm 147:1-5; antiphon: v. 6

- P** The Lord lifts up the humble;
C **he casts the wicked to the ground.**
- P** Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
C **for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**
- P** The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
C **he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**
- P** He heals the brokenhearted
C **and binds up their wounds.**
- P** He determines the number of the stars;
C **he gives to all of them their names.**
- P** Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
C **his understanding is beyond measure.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** The Lord lifts up the humble;
C **he casts the wicked to the ground.**

KYRIE [*Greek for “Lord, (have mercy)”*]

A In peace let us pray to the Lord,

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For hearts that turn from blaming others and confess our own sin, trusting the Lord whose ways are just, let us pray to the Lord,

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For faith to believe the Father who takes no pleasure in the death of the dying, but calls us to turn and live, let us pray to the Lord,

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For humility to count others more significant than ourselves, following Christ who became obedient unto death, let us pray to the Lord,

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For faith to confess Your authority openly, not shrinking back in fear or silence, let us pray to the Lord,

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Amen.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, You take no pleasure in the death of the wayward, but delight to give life to all who turn to You. Grant us by Your Holy Spirit true repentance, that our hearts may be made new, our ways directed in Your truth, and our lives shaped by the mind of Christ, who humbled Himself unto death for our salvation. Call us daily from blame and self-righteousness into the joy of His forgiveness, that we may walk in Your paths and live. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

HYMN OF PRAISE – “Word of God Speak”

- 1 I'm finding myself at a loss for words
And the funny thing is it's ok
The last thing I need is to be heard
But to hear what you would say
- 2, 4 Word of God speak
- 5 Would You pour down like rain
Washing my eyes to see Your majesty
To be still and know
That You're in this place
Please let me stay and rest in Your holiness
Word of God speak
- 3 I'm finding myself in the midst of You
Beyond the music, beyond the noise
All that I need is to be with You
And in the quiet I hear Your voice
- 6 I'm finding myself at a loss for words
And the funny thing is it's ok

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

("I have no pleasure in the death of anyone.")

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²"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'? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, 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. . . .

²⁵"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? ²⁶When 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. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet 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?

³⁰"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. ³¹Cast 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? ³²For 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.

PSALM

Psalm 25:1-10; antiphon: v. 4

L ⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
C teach me your paths.

L ¹To you, O LORD,
C I lift up my soul.

L ²O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
C let not my enemies exult over me.

L ³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
C they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

L ⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
C teach me your paths.

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

L ⁶Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
C for they have been from of old.

L ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
C according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

L ⁸Good and upright is the LORD;
C therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

L ⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
C and teaches the humble his way.

L ¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
C for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

L ⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
C teach me your paths.

EPISTLE

Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18

(Christ's example of humility.)

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that 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, ¹⁶holding 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. ¹⁷Even 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. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Isaiah 6:3b

P Alleluia. All authority in heaven and on earth
C has been given to Me. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-27

(The authority of Jesus is challenged.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²³When [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?" ²⁴Jesus 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."* ²⁵*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?'" ²⁶But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, *"Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."*

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 159

P God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C 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.

Sit

LAMB'S MESSAGE

SERMON

VOTUM

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

OFFERING

There are several ways to give.

1. Please **send** your offerings to
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
4801 Anderson Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66503
2. **Electronic Funds Transfer**/Sign up through the church office.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE: Matthew 21:26 – “But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd...” Foolish Pharisees! They fear men more than they fear God, and so they miss out on the great blessing of knowing Jesus and His love. All our sins are like this: we fear something more than we fear God. And how foolish that is! Just think of the blessings we miss out on whenever we place our fear or trust in something other than God .

OFFERTORY – “I Stand in Awe” Romans 11:33

1, 3 You are beautiful beyond description
Too marvelous for words
Too wonderful for comprehension
Like nothing ever seen or heard
Who can grasp Your infinite wisdom?
Who can fathom the depth of Your love?
You are beautiful beyond description
Majesty enthroned above

2, 4, 5 And I stand, I stand in awe of You
I stand, I stand in awe of You
Holy God to whom all praise is due
I stand in awe of You
I stand in awe of You

(Mark Altrogge ©1988, arr. ©1997 People of Destiny Music/Pleasant Hill Music (admin. by Word Music)
CCLI #288089)

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, You take no pleasure in the death of the sinner, but delight to give life to all who turn to You. Grant Your Church faithful tongues to proclaim repentance and forgiveness in Christ, that sinners may turn and live. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Father, preserve Your Church from grumbling, rivalry, and conceit. Shape us by the mind of Christ, who humbled Himself unto death for our salvation. Make us shine as lights in this world, holding fast to the Word of life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of justice, strengthen Your people to proclaim Your ways rightly in a world that often calls Your judgments unfair. Break the hardness of the wicked, that they may turn from their transgressions and find life in Your mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Creator and Sustainer, bless the useful arts of science, agriculture, and industry. Guard us from misusing Your gifts or harming our neighbor. Teach us wise stewardship of all You have made. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty Lord, You have appointed earthly rulers to punish evil and honor good. Grant wisdom, integrity, and courage to all who serve in government. Bless those who serve in the armed forces, that they may carry out their duties honorably and in safety. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** Compassionate Father, draw near to all who suffer in body or spirit—those facing sickness, surgery, pain, or distress, especially **[names]**. Calm their fears, strengthen their faith, and grant healing according to Your steadfast love. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord of the Church, bless our congregation as we prepare for the **Capital Stewardship Campaign: *Faith in Christ, Building Our Future***. Grant us unity of purpose, joy in giving, and confidence in Your provision. Turn our hearts from fear to faith, from self-concern to generous love, that all we undertake may serve Your kingdom and strengthen Your Church for years to come. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** God of light and truth, unite us in doctrine, witness, and service. Keep us steadfast in Your Word, humble in repentance, and joyful in Your salvation. Let our lives reflect the mercy You have shown us in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **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.**

CONCLUDING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

O Lord, whose ways are just and whose mercy is abundant, You take no pleasure in the death of the wicked but delight to give life to all who turn to You. By Your Holy Spirit, keep us steadfast in repentance, humble in heart, and joyful in the salvation won for us by Your Son, who became obedient unto death that we might live. Lead us in Your truth, teach us Your paths, and grant that the mind of Christ would shape our thoughts, words, and deeds in the week ahead. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

GREET ONE ANOTHER

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “The Lord be with you,”
“Peace be with you,” or “The peace of the Lord be with you”.*

CLOSING SONG - "You Are Holy (Prince of Peace)"

- 1, 5 You are Holy (You are Holy)
You are mighty (You are mighty)
You are worthy (You are worthy)
Worthy of praise (Worthy of praise)
I will follow (I will follow)
I will listen (I will listen)
I will love You (I will love You)
All of my days (All of my days)
- 2, 3 I will sing to and worship the King who is worthy
I will love and adore Him, I will bow down before Him
- 4 You're my Prince of Peace and I will live my life for You
- 6 You're the Lord of Lords, You're the King of Kings
You are mighty God, Lord of everything
You're Emmanuel, You're the great I Am
You're the Prince of Peace, who is the Lamb
You're the living God, You're my saving grace
You will reign forever, You are Ancient of Days
You're the Alpha, Omega, beginning and end
You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer, and Friend
You're my Prince of Peace and I will live my life for you
- 7 I will sing to You're the Lord of Lords
And worship You're the King of Kings
The King who You are mighty God
Is worthy Lord of everything
I will love and You're Emmanuel
Adore Him You're the great I Am
I will bow down You're the Prince of Peace
Before Him Who is the Lamb

I will sing to	You're the Living God
And worship	You're my saving grace
The King who	You will reign forever
Is worthy	You are Ancient of Days
I will love and	You're the Alpha, Omega
Adore Him	Beginning and End
I will bow down	You're my Savior, Messiah
Before Him	Redeemer and Friend

8, 9 You're my Prince of Peace and I will live my life for You

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4. Copyright © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

