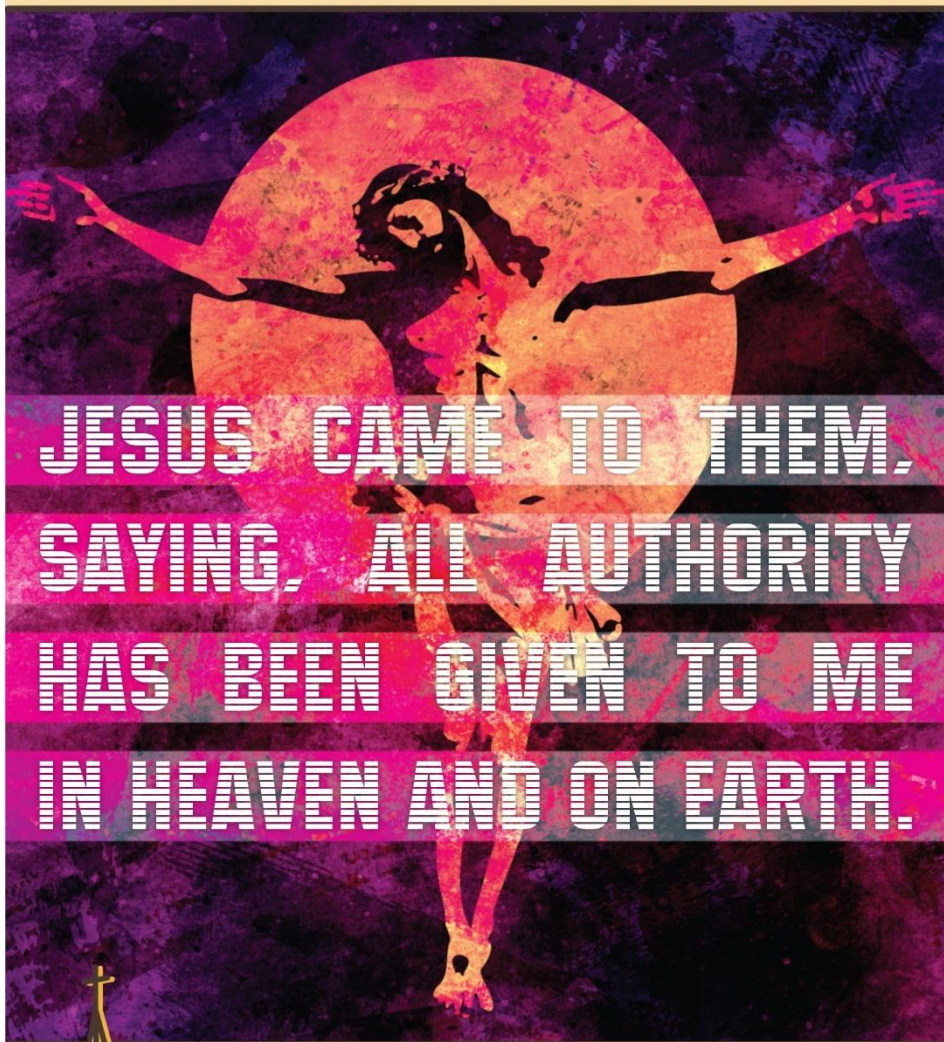


18th Sunday after Trinity

October 4th, 2026

Liturgy: TLH p. 5

Organist: Lana Strike



**JESUS CAME TO THEM,  
SAYING, ALL AUTHORITY  
HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME  
IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH.**



# ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

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— [www.okabenalutheran.org](http://www.okabenalutheran.org) —

## ✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #18

"Lord, We Come Before Thee Now"

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** ♪ **Amen.**

### Confession of Our Sins

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

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*We acknowledge that we are sinful and daily need God's forgiveness.*

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**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

**C** ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

**P** Almighty God our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Absolution from Our God

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*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)*

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**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord unto us all.

**C** ♪ **Amen.**

## The Introit

Ps. 147:1-6

*A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.*

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

## The Gloria Patri

TLH #237:1

*Latin for "Glory be to the Father."*

- C** ♪ **All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended!  
To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended;  
God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on  
earth again; Oh, thank Him for His goodness!**

## The Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

## The Collect Prayer of the Day

- P** Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** ♪ **Amen.**



### Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup> "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'? <sup>3</sup> As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by

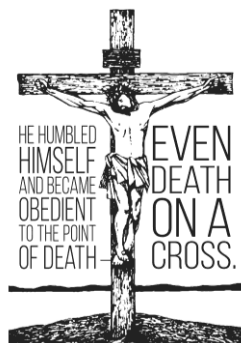
you in Israel. <sup>4</sup> Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die... <sup>25</sup> "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>29</sup> 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? <sup>30</sup> "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. <sup>31</sup> 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? <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."



## 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, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of

death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. <sup>12</sup> 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, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. <sup>14</sup> Do all things without grumbling or disputing, <sup>15</sup> 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, <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.



## Confession of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

### **C** I BELIEVE...

**in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**

**Hymn: TLH #222**

*"Look, Ye Saints, the Sight is Glorious"*



## Matthew 21:23-32

And when he 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?" <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> 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?' <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> "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.' <sup>29</sup> And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> 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.

**~~"Who Gave You This Authority?"~~**

**"Why Was This Authority Given?"**

### The Offertory

**✪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me Cast me not away from Thy presence; And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit. Amen.**

**✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠**

Hymn: TLH #521

"What God Ordains is Always Good"

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠

**The Benediction**

Numbers 6:24-26

*The blessing given by God for His people.*

**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 His peace.

**C** ♪ **Amen, amen, a – men.**

Hymn: TLH #346

"Jesus! And Shall it Ever Be"



**Fall Choir Practice** resumed today at 8:30 am and will continue through the Advent season. If you've never sung in the choir before, feel free to join!

**Ladies' Night** Soup & Share will be held this Wednesday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the fellowship hall. More information can be found in the entryway.

**A Joint Reformation Service** will be held on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 pm at Faith Lutheran Church, New Ulm. RSVP to Pastor!

**Nepal Disaster Relief** has been approved to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ of the Himalayan Church of the Lutheran Confession Nepal (HCLCN). This support will help rebuild the homes of fifteen HCLCN families and provide humanitarian relief. Donations can be made to "Kinship" on your offering envelopes or by visiting [lutheranmissions.org/kinship](http://lutheranmissions.org/kinship).

|                 |                                                         |                                      |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Ushers</b>   | 10/4                                                    | Phil S, Nathan V, Daniel R.          |
|                 | 10/11                                                   | Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R. |
|                 | 10/18                                                   | Kendall B, Larry B, Caleb E.         |
| <b>Cleaning</b> | This Week – Ferguson, Dronen, Baumann, Olmanson (wk. 4) |                                      |
|                 | Up Next – DeWall, Thaemlitz                             |                                      |

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

October 5<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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**Mon Matthew 22:34-40** A lawyer tries to trap Jesus into prioritizing one commandment over another. Jesus points to love which unites all God's commandments. Such love took Jesus to the cross for us all.

**Tues Matthew 22:41-46** Jesus reaches out to the Pharisees, showing them that the Christ is not just the son of David, but also David's Lord. Sadly, they had no response, except to avoid future discussions with Him.

**Wed 1 Corinthians 1:4-9** Paul thanks God for the rich blessings showered upon the Corinthian Christians. Their troubles, which he will soon address, did not come from any failure of God to provide for their needs.

**Thurs Deuteronomy 10:12-21** The commandments of the Lord are reflections of Him. He is the mighty one, who does not take bribes, who carries out justice, who loves the stranger among you. Cling to Him.

**Fri Psalm 54** When godless adversaries seek to destroy David, he leaves it in God's hands. With the Lord there is help and deliverance, demonstrated in the past and promised for all time and eternity.

**Sat Psalm 119:137-144** Jehovah's righteousness is the subject of this section of the psalm. It is seen in His word. His righteousness is eternally true (v142), and no trouble destroys our delight in the truth (v143).

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