

Old Testament Reading:
Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

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.”

Epistle: Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18

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. ¹⁸Like-wise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23–27

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. ²⁵The 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.”



About the Cover: The Israelites thought they could weigh the scales of justice and found God at fault. However, the Israelites ignored God’s Law, which showed their ways to be unjust. We cannot tip the scales of justice in our favor by disregarding God’s Law, which condemns sinners to death. God, however, does not take pleasure in death. He desires mercy. In Christ, both perfect justice and perfect mercy were delivered when He took the sin of the world upon Himself and suffered the punishment for our sin in our place.



I have no pleasure
in the death of anyone

Ezekiel 18:32

MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH
1308 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC. 20005
Office: 202-667-5357
Website: www.mountolivetdc.org

The Rev. Dr. John F. Johnson, Pastor
revjfjohnson@gmail.com

18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 27, 2026

Service of Prayer & Preaching LSB p.260

Hymn "Lead Me, Guide Me" LSB #721

Opening Versicles

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

From the rising of the sun to its setting,

The name of the Lord is to be praised.

Common

Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than
dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

Teach me Your paths.

Sanctify us in Your truth.

Your Word is truth.

From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**The name of the Lord is to be praised. 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.**

*****Psalm of the Day Ps. 25:1-10*****

The Lessons

The Gospel

Common Responsory

Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

**Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where
Your glory dwells.**

Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

**Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where
Your glory dwells.**

Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where
Your glory dwells.**

Apostles' Creed & The Lord's Prayer LSB p.264

Hymn "Seek Ye First". LSB #712

Sermon

Offering

Prayers & Collects

(Pastor's statement ends: "Let us pray to the Lord"

The people respond: "LORD HAVE MERCY")

Morning Prayer

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear
Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger;
and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and
every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into
Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things.
Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no
power over me. Amen.**

Benediction

Hymn "My Faith Looks Up to Thee". LSB #702

Announcements

SERMON NOTES

Sermon Title _____

Texts _____

Main Ideas / Thoughts _____

I Want to Remember _____

What Response Does God Want? _____