

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."

Epistle: Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:1-20

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he put

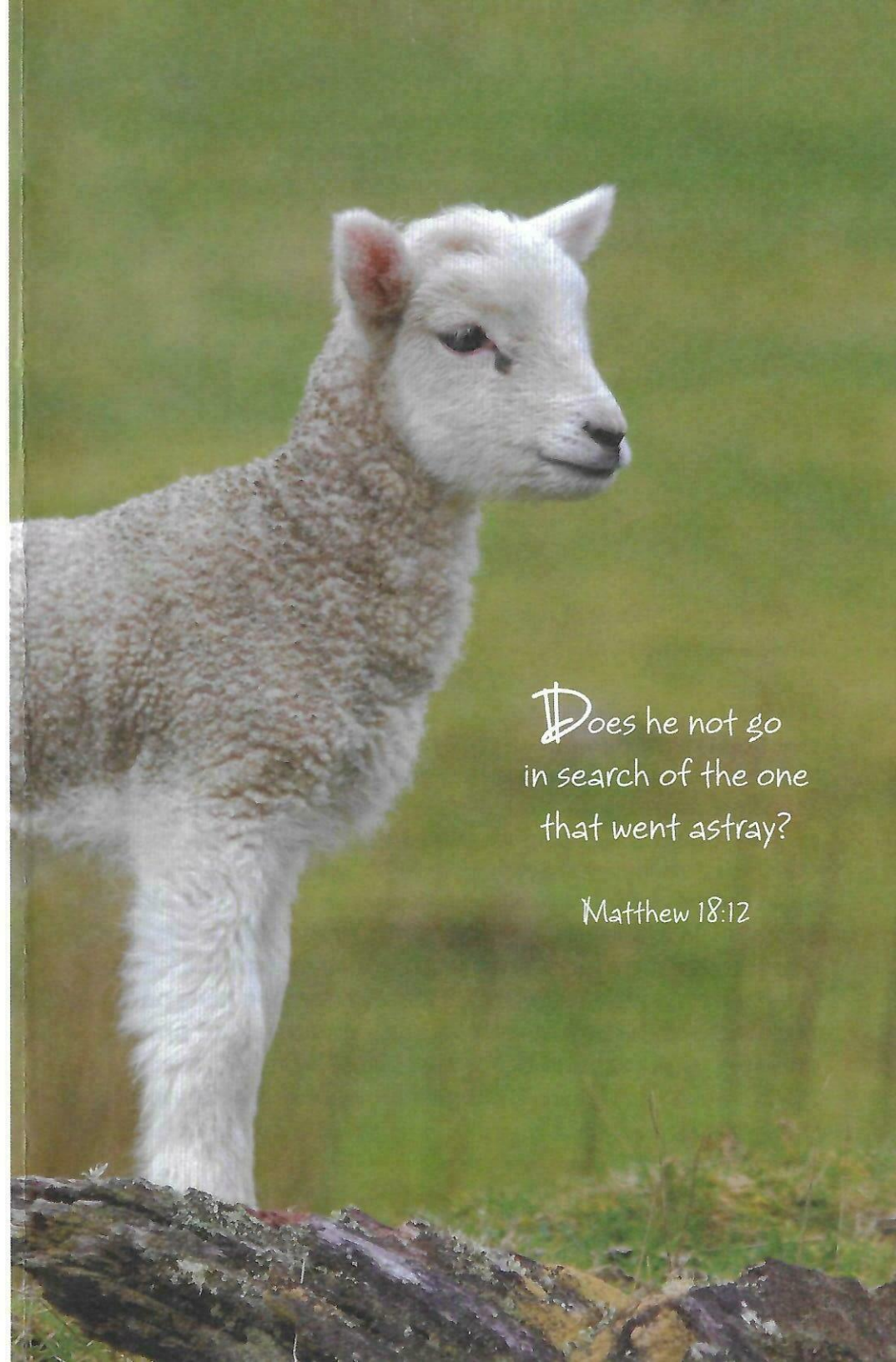
him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."



Does he not go
in search of the one
that went astray?

Matthew 18:12



About the Cover: Every single little sheep in the Lord's flock is precious to Him. He, like a shepherd in search of his lost sheep, is willing to go to great lengths to find every missing sheep. You are also precious to Your Savior, who laid down His life for you on the cross (John 10:17). He knows you by name (John 10:3). He has gone to great lengths to find you, who was once lost. But today, you are found, and there is great rejoicing!

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DIVINE WORSHIP -10AM

15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6, 2026

HYMN "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" LSB #761

Divine Service One

Invocation

Confession & Absolution LSB p.151

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will
forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and
unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and
deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved
our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present
and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus
Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so
that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the
glory of Your Holy name. Amen.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake
forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His

authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Introit

I love the house where You live, O Lord,

The place where Your glory dwells.

Vindicate me, O Lord,

For I have led a blameless life;

I have trusted in the Lord

Without wavering.

Test me, O Lord, and try me,

Examine my heart and my mind.

I wash my hands in innocence,

And go about Your altar, O Lord,

Proclaiming aloud Your praise,

**And telling of all Your wonderful deeds. 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.**

Kyrie, "This is the Feast", The Salutation & Collect p.152-156.

Lessons & The Gospel p.157.

Nicene Creed p.158

Hymn . . . "Amazing Grace" LSB #744

Sermon

Offering

Prayers of the Church

Service of the Sacrament p.160

Communion on floor – continuous line

Post Communion Collect . . . p.166

Benediction

Hymn . . . "Jesus, Priceless Treasure" LSB #743 (1-4)

Announcements

***If you are visiting with us today please fill out our visitor card so that we can inform you of upcoming events or respond to a request.**

Next Sunday is our annual picnic in Rock Creek Park at site #6. Please make sure you sign up today so that we know how many to expect and any salad or dessert you might bring.

The Sunday morning Bible Study will restart on Sept 20 at 9:10am; it will be a phone in process until 9:45am.

Mount Olivet's Communion Statement

We welcome to the Lord's Supper all who have been baptized into the Christian faith; who have received instruction concerning the Sacrament and have been admitted to the Lord's table; who repents of their sins; and who seek the forgiveness and strength to live the new life which the Lord's Supper gives. Members of Lutheran congregations in fellowship with us are welcome to share together with us in the blessings of the Sacrament of the Altar. Others who wish to receive Holy Communion or have questions about our Lutheran understanding of this Sacrament, are invited to have conversation with the Pastor Johnson after the service (if he is available) or by contacting him to set up an appointment. Also, anyone, child or adult, who wishes may come forward at the time of the distribution to receive a blessing.

SERMON NOTES

Sermon Title _____

Texts _____

Main Ideas / Thoughts _____

I Want to Remember _____

What Response Does God Want? _____