

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

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any par-

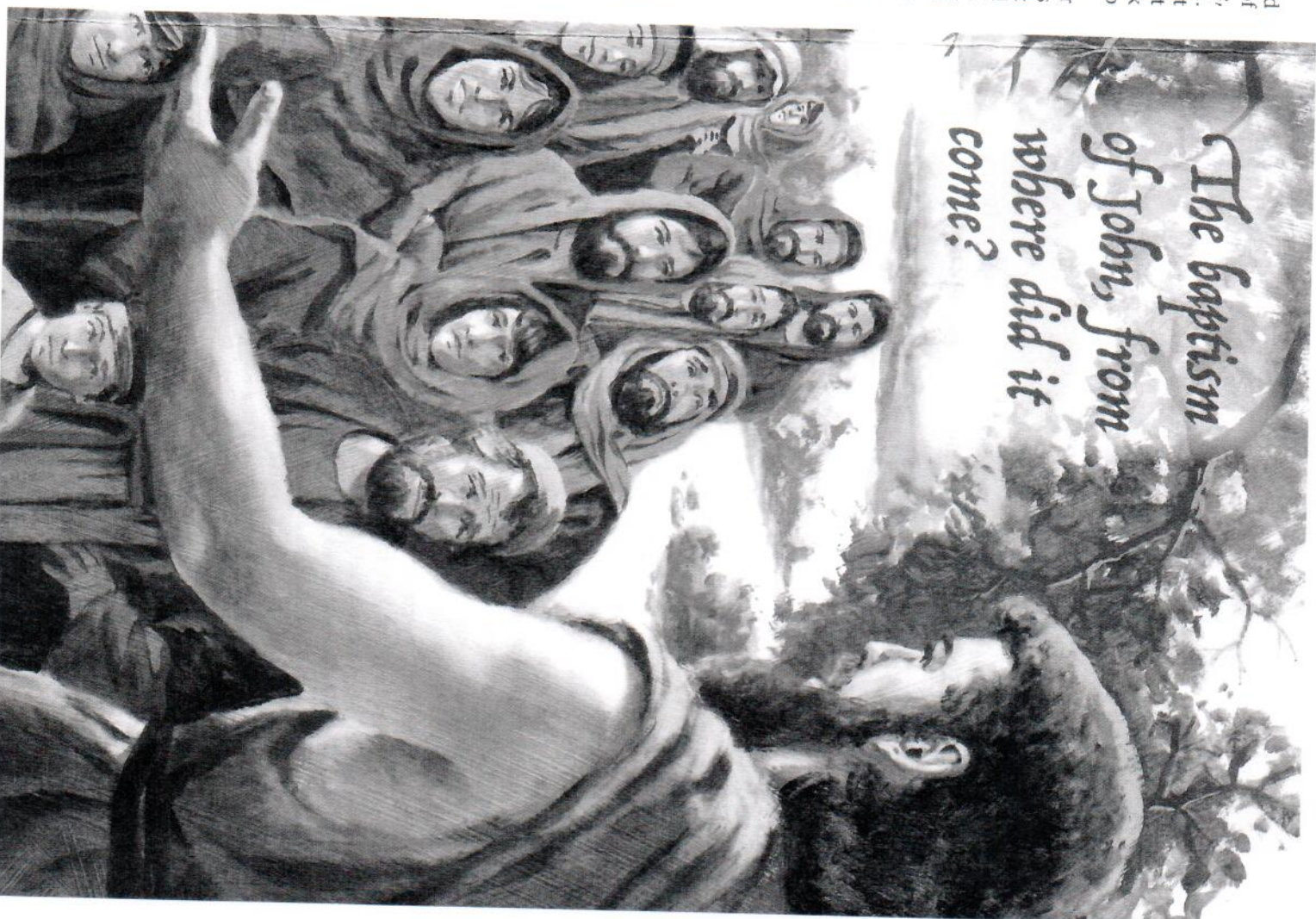
ticipation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests,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

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."

*The baptism
of John, from
where did it
come?*



About the Cover: Jesus revealed what was most important to the chief priests and elders. They cared more about their own places of authority than the truth. How different is Jesus! He taught with all authority yet was willing to die for the sake of the truth. He was vindicated and raised again on the third day in order to give forgiveness and life to all who are in Him.



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

The HYMNS are from the Lutheran Service Book (Maroon Book),
unless indicated otherwise. Please stand at the appropriate times.

THE ORGAN PRELUDE

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN NO. 913 - "O Holy Spirit, Enter In"
(Please stand to sing stanza 3)

THE INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

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

C: Amen.

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

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: 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 neighbor 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.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His only Son to die for you and for His
sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word
I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE INTROIT (Pastor and Congregation chant alternately)

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 Je- / rusalem;*

He gathers the outcasts of / Israel.

C: He heals the broken- / hearted *
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 abun- / dant in power; *
His understanding is beyond / measure.

P: Glory be to the Father and / to the Son* and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning, * is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

C: The LORD lifts up the / humble; *
He casts the wicked / to the ground.

THE KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise
let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE - "To God Be the Glory" (See page 3)

To God Be the Glory

Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

William H. Doane, 1832-1915

1. To God be the glo - ry, great things he hath done;
 2. O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood,
 3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
 To ev - 'ry be - liev - er the prom - ise of God;
 And great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

Who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin
 The vil - est of - fend - er who tru - ly be - lieves,
 But pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

And o - pened the Life - gate that all may go in.
 That mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
Refrain
 Our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the peo - ple re - joice!

Oh, come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son,
 And give him the glo - ry, great things he hath done.

THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. 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. (Be seated)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL (Pastor and Congregation chant alternately)

P: He will command His angels con - / cerning You*
 to guard you in / all your ways.

C: Bless the LORD, / O my soul,*
 and all that is within me, bless His / holy name!

THE EPISTLE LESSON: Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

THE ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
 You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL ACCOUNT: Matthew 21:23-27

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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 Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

(Please be seated after making confession of our faith)

THE SERMON HYMN NO. 525 - "Crown Him with Many Crowns"
(Please stand to sing stanza 5)

THE SERMON - "God Makes No Mistakes."
Text: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

(Stand)

THE OFFERTORY

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
Unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with Your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

THE PRAYERS

After each petition the pastor will say "Lord, in Your mercy."
Congregation to respond with "Hear our prayer."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen. (Please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN NO. 850 - "God of Grace and God of Glory"

TODAY IS THE FIRST TIME WE WILL IMPLEMENT
THE PROCEDURE OF HOLY COMMUNION FOLLOWING
THE CLOSE OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE.

THOSE WHO WISH TO RECEIVE COMMUNION ON THE
SECOND AND/OR FOURTH WEEK WILL BE ASKED TO
COME FORWARD AFTER PASTOR DISMISSES THE
REST OF THE CONGREGATION. IF YOU ARE LEAVING,
PLEASE DO SO AS QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE.

+ + + + + + + + + + +

The Presiding Minister - Rev. James A. Haugen, Jr.

The Assistant - Rich Dyke

The Organist - Karen Kostelnik

The Head Usher - Steve Szucs

Caring for the Altar - Martha Prok

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office 440/234-5806

Pastor Haugen Cell " 440/376-6275