



18th Sunday after Pentecost
Augustana Lutheran
Church
September 27, 2026

Thank you for silencing your mobile device.
An asterisk (*) invites the congregation to stand.

Prelude

Shannon Peterson

GATHERING

Announcements

Announcement of the Day

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

***Opening Hymn**

"God is Here!" #526 v.1,2

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

***Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***Kyrie** (p.120)

***Prayer of the Day**

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get 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, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Response to the Reading

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Special Music

Celebration Choir "Alleluia" — Miller

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name

that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Response to the Reading

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation** (p.124)

***Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32**

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

***Gospel Announcement and Spoken Response**

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² 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 after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

***Spoken Gospel Response**

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon *Pickle Jar funds going to St. John Food Pantry*

Sermon

Pastor Judith Wascher

Silence for reflection

***Hymn of the Day** "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" #772

***Apostles' Creed**

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession —**

We pray for: Jeanne Alingh; Lily Bodammer; Jackson Bullock; Sheryl Dickey; Dan Graben; Terry Heck; Con Heider; Dennis Holton; Lois Irwin; Theresa Krusko; Joe LaScala; Benjamin Lindgren; Dave Lindgren; Terry

McAllister; Becky Moos; Ollie Nygard; Kurt Peterson; Eden Roach; Sherry Roatch; Tom Roatch; Shelly Schossow; Jill Simonson; Marge Swanson; Josh Wingert; and those affected by disasters and diseases throughout the world. We pray for all of the caregivers that give of their time and gentle care for those who are ill. We also pray for the families of the church: Rolin and Kjersten Welch; Rollie, Kris, Abby, and Aiden Whitsel; Spencer Will; Darla Williams; Craig, Anne, Kaylyn, and Klara Winter.

A: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

***Sharing of the Peace**

OFFERING

***Offering Prayer**

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.

Amen.

MEAL

***Great Thanksgiving** (p.129)

***Proper Preface**

***Sanctus** (p.130)

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer** (p.134)

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.

***Invitation to Holy Communion**

P: Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

C: Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God (p.135)

Distribution—*We believe that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the Supper of our Lord, in the forms of bread and wine. We also believe that admission to the sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the Church to those who believe in Jesus Christ as*

their Lord and Savior. All are welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper at Augustana Lutheran Church. Receive the bread in your hands. Gluten free hosts are available if you prefer. The wine will be served in a small glass. Grape juice is available if you prefer. Those who do not partake of Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Distribution Hymns

"O Master, Let Me Walk with You"

#818

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

#517

***Post-Communion Blessing**

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

"God is Here!" #526 v.4

***Dismissal**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Shannon Peterson

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GOD'S LOVE MADE REAL!

Today, Sunday, September 27 Worship Leaders—Presiding Minister: Pastor Judith Wascher; Assisting Minister: Fred Hexom; Musician: Shannon Peterson; Technical Assistant: Team Levine; Altar Guild: Shared; Acolyte: Alex Hexom

Sunday, October 4 Worship Leaders—Presiding Minister: Pastor Chuck Meyer; Assisting Minister: Dave Madsen; Musician: Angela Iversen; Technical Assistant: Team Iversen; Altar Guild: Shared; Acolyte: Elie Iversen

Attendance for Sunday, September 20—49

The flowers on the reredos were placed by the Monday Night Bible Study group in sympathy to Shannon Peterson and family, in loving support during the loss of her father, Floyd Benda.

September Benevolence—Don't forget to bring in personal care items for SafePlace! A financial donation will also help, checks can be made out to Augustana with a note that it is for SafePlace.

50th Sioux City CROP Walk—Team Augustana/St. John is taking part in the Sioux City CROP Walk on Sunday, October 18th, and we'd love for you to join us! Whether you walk with us or show support with a donation, every step and dollar helps fight hunger in our community and around the world. How to get involved: Walk with us - Come and walk with Team Augustana/St. John on the 18th! Donate - Find the donation link on the Augustana Facebook page, or hand your donation to Shelley Hexom at church. Please make checks out to CWS/CROP. *Let's help make the 50th Sioux City CROP Walk the biggest one yet!*

'Coffee Forever' Fundraiser—ELCA Lutheran Churches in Sioux City are participating in a project to provide "Coffee Forever" for The Warming Shelter. The Warming Shelter offers low-barrier shelter and compassionate support to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Siouxland. Church members, neighbors, and friends are encouraged to donate packaged or canned coffee (ground coffee, not whole bean). "Coffee Forever" bins are now located at the 7 Sioux City ELCA Lutheran churches. Participating churches are Augustana, First, Riverside, St. John, St. Luke, St. Mark, and United. Donations will be accepted at the churches on Sunday mornings, and on weekdays during church office hours. This ongoing support of the work of The Warming Shelter has begun, and is scheduled to last... forever!

This week at Augustana

Sunday, September 27, 2026

10:00am Children's Sunday School,
Choir

11:00am Holy Communion

Monday, September 28, 2026

6:15pm Monday Night Women's
Bible Study

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

5:00pm Confirmation Class

Saturday, October 3, 2026

11:00am Funeral Service for Ollie
Nygard

Next week at Augustana

Sunday, October 4, 2026

10:00am Children's Sunday School,
Adult Sunday School, Choir

11:00am Holy Communion

Monday, October 5, 2026

6:15pm Monday Night Women's
Bible Study

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

5:00pm Confirmation Class

Welcome to all visitors; we've been expecting you! Please worship with us regularly! If you are looking for a church home and would like to attend a new member class, please check the appropriate box on the Fellowship Register as you sign in. The register can be found in three places in the narthex as you enter the nave. Please sign it and check the appropriate boxes.

There are several ways to find out more about Augustana! Copies of the *Trumpeter*, Augustana's monthly newsletter, are available in the entryway for visitors. Look for us on the web at www.augustanasc.org. Check us out on Facebook! Augustana Lutheran, Sioux City is the name of our page.

Congregational Mission Statement

A welcoming, caring congregation offering opportunities for
worship, spiritual growth, and fellowship.

We express our faith and love to others in the name of Jesus Christ.

