

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Introduction to 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.**

FIRST LESSON: 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.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:5)

SECOND LESSON: 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.

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 MESSAGE -- Marching Orders

Members of the string quartet look around at each other, nod, and begin tuning up to play. The basketball team huddles around the coach as she draws up the play on a dry-erase board. The volunteer teams go over their assignments one last time before heading off to their positions for the charity run. In each instance, before beginning their mission, the group takes a moment to get on the same page, to get their marching orders. In our lives as disciples of Christ, that moment is baptism.

Our marching orders, our mission guidelines, are marked on our hearts in baptism. The good news of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in Jesus Christ that is poured over us spills out in our lives, and we are called to be agents of restoration: to bind up the brokenhearted, to care for all people and all creation. Just as the coach draws up the play or someone makes a list of the things that need to get done, we are imbued with a way of life in baptism's waters. Our motivation for this way of life is the love that has also been shown to us in Jesus: the love that feeds us each week as we gather around our Savior's table.

Even if we are sometimes reluctant, like the son in Jesus' parable who initially says he will not go to the vineyard but eventually goes, we are motivated to carry out the work to which God has called us because of the baptismal grace we have received. And whenever we pause to collect ourselves—whether it's tuning up before the performance, getting the play in the huddle, or just taking a deep breath before beginning the next

item on the to-do list—we think of baptism, when our marching orders and our motivations are indelibly marked on us by Jesus.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need especially Chris Burchat, Natasha Gagnon-Burchat, Claude Jeannotte, Glenda Panke, Joanne Robinson, Bernadette Schueneman, Heather Schruder, Linda Schruder, Doug Sell, Harold Warlich, Roy Zadow, those in long term care facilities and senior residences. Grant us your salvation. In this moment of silence, we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts, those who need your healing touch. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

BLESSING (WOV p. 53)

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

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Announcements:

Sunday, September 27th – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM – Bonnechere - SOW

10:30 AM - Grace – SOW - Sunday School

Greeter: Joan Schroeder; **Reader:** John Yakabuski

Bell Ringer: Robert Pape

Elevator: Jack Schaven; **Head Usher:** Charlotte Schaven

2:30 PM – Sebastopol Harvest Service, with potluck lunch following worship

Monday, September 28th

9: 00 AM to 3:00 PM - Quilting at Grace

7:00 PM – Grace Church Council

Tuesday, September 29th

10:00 AM – Bible Study

Wednesday, September 30th

7:00 PM – Community Choir

Thursday, October 1st

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM – Toy Bus

10:00 AM – Grace Choir

Sunday, October 4th – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM - Grace – HC - Sunday School

Greeter: Grady Hoffman; **Reader:** Michael Johnson

Bell Ringer: Morley Hass

Elevator: Alfie Rosien; **Head Usher:** Morley Hass

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The **Sunday School** invites you to help fill our wagons with food for the **Eganville Foodbank**. This will take place in the narthex from September 6 until October 11, Thanksgiving Sunday. Please show your love to your neighbours by filling our wagons to the top!

Sebastopol Harvest Service. Sunday, September 27th - 2:30 PM

Join our Thanksgiving worship followed by a potluck lunch. Enjoy a wonderful worship experience and the beginning of fall colours on the mountain.

Please join us for our **MEMORIAL SERVICE** at **Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rankin**, *Remembering, Giving thanks, Celebrating hope*, on Sunday, **September 27th at 3:00 PM**, with Pastor Bruce Thompson presiding. Followed by a delicious meal in the reception hall downstairs. All folks are welcome.

Reformation Service - Sunday October 18, 2026

Rankin Community Centre 3:00 pm

Rev. Matthew Brown, Parish of the Valley – Anglican Guest Preacher

Dinner 5:00 pm - Dinner Tickets \$35.00 Smoked Pork Loin with all the trimmings. Available at your church office until October 4, 2026

Come Worship and Connect with your Ottawa Valley Lutheran and Anglican Families. Organized by the Ottawa Valley Ministry Team Eastern Synod of the ELCIC

You're Invited

To attend the closing service of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Denbigh, ON. Sunday, October 4th at 2:00 PM. Officiated by: Rev. Adam Snook & David Whyte. Light lunch will be served afterwards at the Denbigh Community Hall. All donations will be used for a Memorial Plaque. Come and join us!

Tie Quilting – Our Grace Quilters are looking for volunteers (men and women) to help with tie quilting. Quilt tops are made or donated. Tie quilting will begin on Wednesday, October 7th from 9 AM to 12 Noon, for the months of October and November. They are given to Retirement Homes, Hospice, CHEO (Ottawa), Victim Services of Renfrew County, Ottawa Complex Centre, Sexual Assault Centre and the Food Bank. For more information speak with Vera Dittburner or Shirley Jessup