

September 26 - 27, 2026
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost Readings

First Reading

A Reading from Ezekiel

Hear now, O house of Israel:

Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity,
they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed,
they have condemned themselves.

Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed
and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life.

Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they
had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die.

Yet 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?

Therefore 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.
Cast 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?

For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God.

Turn, then, and live.

(pause)

Reader: **Word of God, word of Life.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A Reading from Philippians

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he existed in the form of God,
 did not regard equality with God
 as something to be grasped,
but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death—
 even death on a cross.

Therefore God exalted him even more highly
 and gave him the name
 that is above every other name,
so that at the name given to Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

(pause)

Reader: **Word of God, word of Life.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

A Proclamation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew

When Jesus entered the temple,
the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching
and Jesus said to them:

“What do you think?
A man had two sons; he went to the first and said,
‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’
He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went.
The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered,
‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go.
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.
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.”

Pastor: **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.