

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023  
THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

a little about the Scripture readings today  
and the saints of the Church we remember  
this week...

SCRIPTURE

**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.*

**SECOND READING**      Philippians 2:1-9  
*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.*

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COMMEMORATIONS  
FOR THE WEEK

Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died  
1226

**October 4**  
Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

**Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864**

**October 4**  
Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.

**William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died 1536**

**October 6**  
Tyndale was ordained a priest in England, and wished to translate the Bible into English. He was opposed in this by King Henry VIII, causing him to flee to Germany. He completed the New Testament in 1525, but before he could finish the Old Testament, he was tried for heresy and burned at the stake.

**Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787**

**October 7**  
Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work. Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. Among other accomplishments, his liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888.



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



Festive Worship Liturgy  
for  
**The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
October 1, 2023

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**Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church**

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# The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 1, 2023  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
(Setting Three)

## Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Prelude

The Sanctus Bells proclaim the advent of worship and Christ's presence with us.

Confession and Forgiveness [the faithful kneel] *Insert*  
Hymn *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

ELW 836

Greeting

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

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

*God speaks to us in Bible reading, preaching, and song.*

First Reading Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32  
Psalm: 25:1-9 *found in the Hymnal*  
Second Reading Philippians 2:1-13  
Gospel Acclamation *ELW 175*  
Holy Gospel Matthew 21:23-32

Spoken response at the announcement of the Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord.**  
After the reading of the Gospel: **Praise to you O Christ**

Sermon Pastor Heagy  
Hymn of the Day [the faithful stand] *O Master Let Me Walk With You* ELW 818  
Apostles' Creed ELW page 105

Prayers of the Faithful [Response to each petition: Receive our prayer.]  
Exchange of Peace

## Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Offering  
Solo [8:30] *A Prayer of St. Francis* Banks  
Soloist: Charlene Canty, soprano

Doxology [the faithful stand] ELW 884  
Offertory Prayer  
God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ELW page 144

Dialogue

The Lord be with you. / **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. / **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. / **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface *Insert*

Sanctus *ELW 190*

Verba [the faithful kneel]

Lord's Prayer ELW page 145

Invitation to the Table

Jesus invites you to this table.  
**Come, eat and live.**

*\*Gluten free wafers available*

Agnus Dei [the faithful stand] *ELW 199*

Distribution

Hymns ELW 635 and 461 are sung during distribution of the Eucharist.

Post Communion Prayer

## Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

Blessing  
Hymn *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* [stanzas 1,3,5] ELW 533  
Dismissal

Go in peace. God is at work in you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*Soli Deo Gloria*