

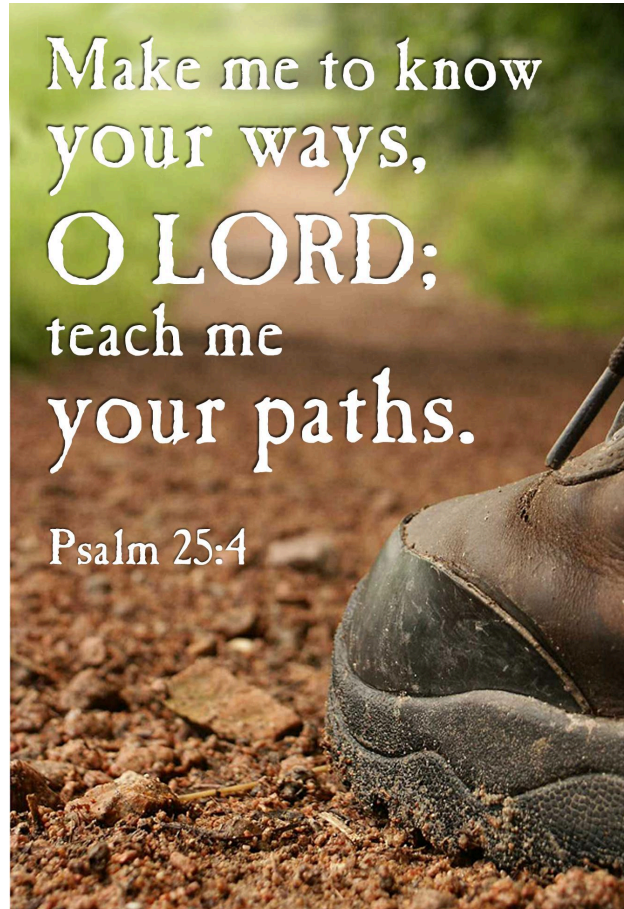
9.27.2026

10:00 am



18th Sunday after Pentecost

*Sharing God's love so that all
are served and supported.*



Today's Worship Theme

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.

**115 East King Street | Boone, North Carolina | Office 828.264.2206 |
www.graceboone.org | graceboone@gmail.com**



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*Greeter: Roger Bodo
Ushers: Bob & Joan Streightiff
Altar Guild: Beth Reavis
Coffee Host: Ann Berger*

If you are visiting, please review the Welcome Pew Card in the hymnal holder.

✠ GATHER ✠

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

For up-to-date info, see the "Grace Happenings" Thursday e-newsletter and our website's monthly calendar (also displayed in the Narthex & Fellowship Hall).



PRELUDE

"Was Gott tut" Robert J. Powell
("What God Ordains Is Good Indeed")

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM *(Please turn to page 234 in the ELW.)*
Today we welcome new members: Matt Chapman and Faith Goyne.

We rise.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Please share a sign of Christ's peace.

GATHERING HYMN

"God Is Here!" ELW 526

GREETING

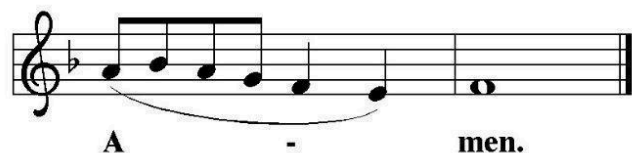
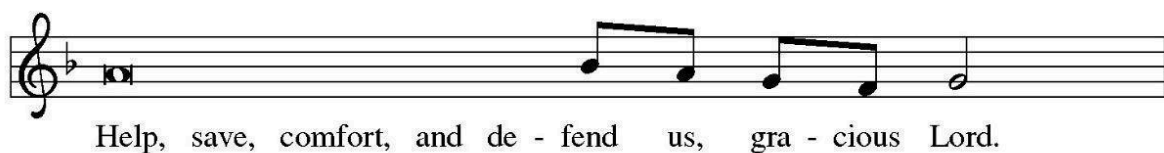
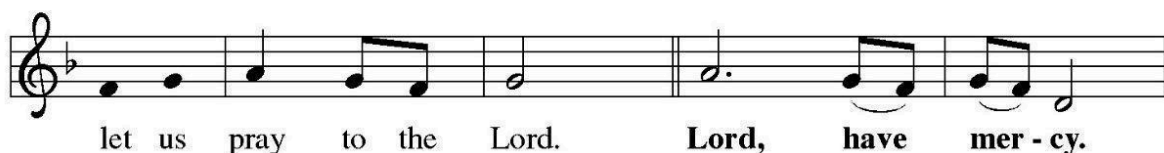
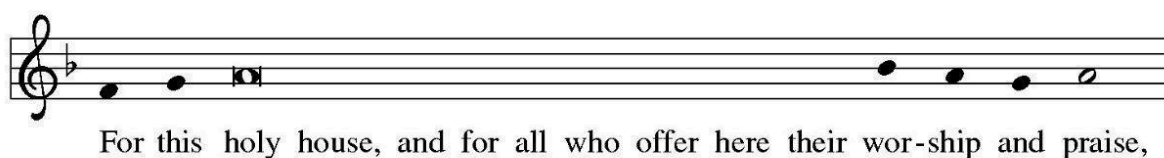
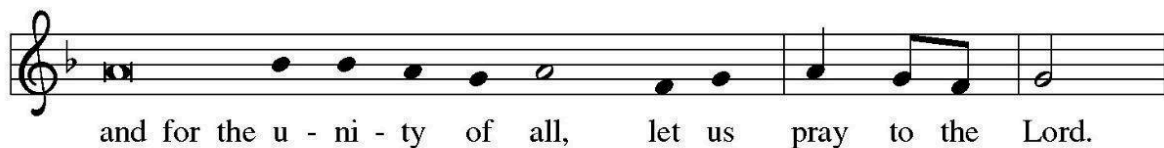
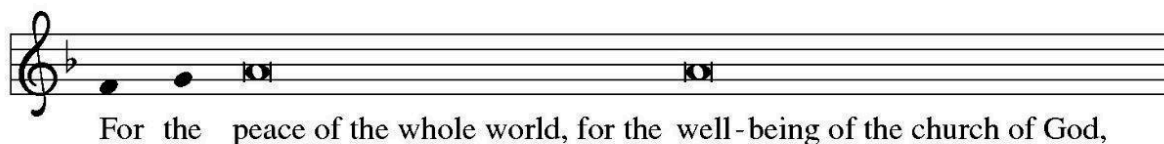
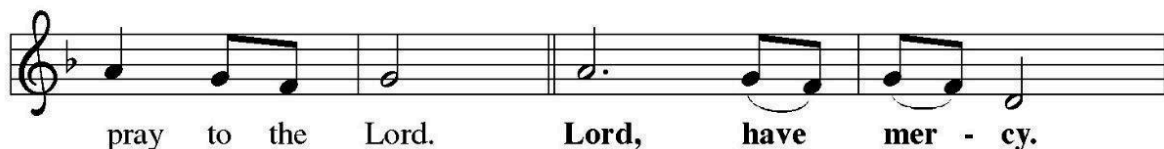
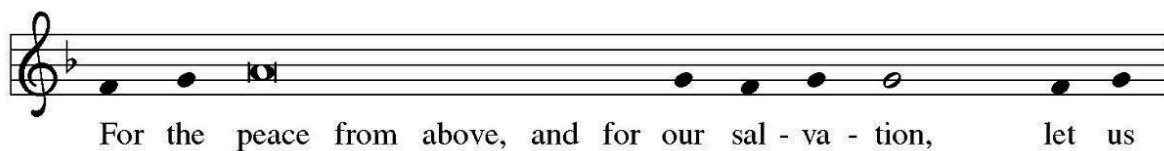
Assisting Minister: Bryan Berger

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

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.**

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children may come forward for the Children's Message, then go upstairs for Children's Church & Music, and return for communion.

A READING FROM Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Lector: JoAnn Wright

The fairness of God's way

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1-9 *Read responsively.*

¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

(CONT.)

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

⁸You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

A READING FROM Philippians 2:1-13

Christ humbled to the point of death on a cross

¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, 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, ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

We rise.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 21:23-32

A parable of doing God's will

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³When [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?" ²⁴Jesus 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. ²⁵Did 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?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So 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.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹Which 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. ³²For 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."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Steve Troisi

We rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Oh, That The Lord Would Guide My Ways” ELW 772

We kneel.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayer ends with these words:
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be seated.

OFFERING SONG

✠ **MEAL** ✠

“Jesus Loves Me”

Doris Nelson

*Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me. He will stay close beside me, all the way.
If I love Him when I die, He will take me home on high.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
The Bible tells me so.*

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We rise.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes with various rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is more complex than the previous hymn, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes, as well as some triplets. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: **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 COMMUNION

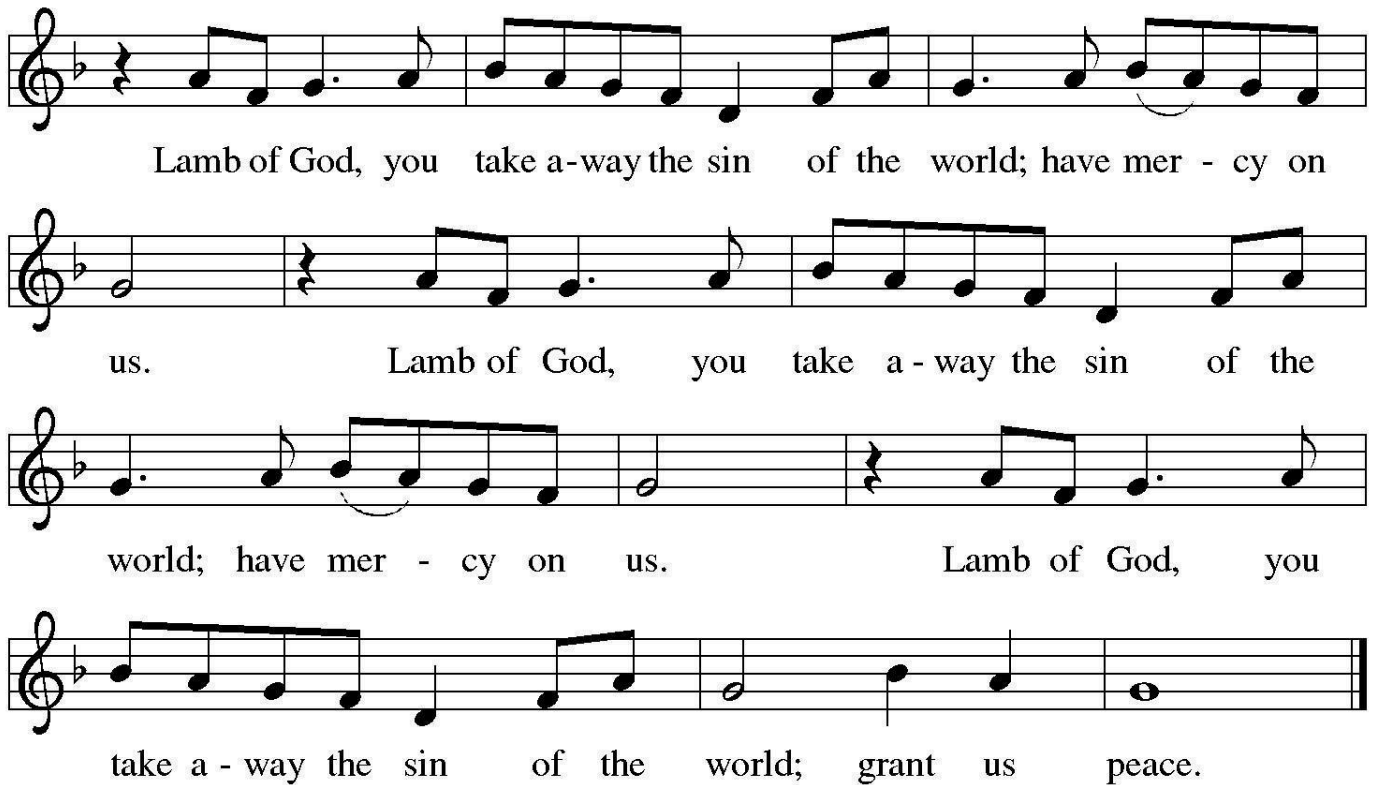
Communion Assistant: Roger Bodo

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come! **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated. This is the Lord's Table; all who seek Christ's true presence promised through this bread and wine are welcome and invited to partake in communion at the head of the aisle. You'll receive bread first (gluten-, nut-, soy- & dairy-free) and then wine (grape juice is available). Please alert an usher if you require the sacrament to be brought to you. On the first and third Sundays, healing prayers are offered in the Chapel.



COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am"

ELW 814

"O Master, Let Me Walk with You"

ELW 818

We rise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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 God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE*"The Feast Is Ready"**Aaron David Miller***CHANCEL FLOWERS**

Are given to the glory of God
and in memory of my husband
Earl Norris, Jr.
by Carol Norris.

SANCTUARY LAMP

Is burning to the glory of God
and in memory of
my four brothers,
Lyle, Paul, David and James,
by Duane & Ruth Daggett.

READINGS FOR OCTOBER 4

Isaiah 5:1-7 | Psalm 80:7-15 | Philippians 3:4b-14 | Matthew 21:33-46

GIVING REPORT

Giving September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026

August Giving	August Budgeted Giving	Year to Date Giving	Year to Date Budgeted Giving
\$22,314.00	\$33,333.33	\$357,895.30	\$400,000.00