

Go and work in the vineyard today

MATTHEW 21:28



Cover: Picking white grapes. Photo by tomazl. Copyright © 2025 Getty Images Plus via Getty Images/E+ Collection. Used by permission.

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Edinburg Lutheran Parish
St. Jacob's & Zion Congregations

September 27, 2026

Pastor Katie Gosswein Parsonage: 984-9260 Cell: 335-7758

<https://elpva.org/>



Remembering those who have requested prayer: Steve

Baker, Diane Funkhouser, Glenn McMinn, Donna Mumaw,

Earl Polk, Tony Reynard, Wanda Faye Rinker, Laurie

Robinson....**we further remember...** Harlynn Beckenstrater,

Joan Bowers, Tom Burner, Steve and Linda Campbell,

Leannah Comer, Donnie Cook, Roe Dias, Virginia Duncan,

Todd Edgerton, Carla Eickenhorst, Virginia Estep, Landon Fadely,

Lynette George, Chuck Givens, Harper & Luther Gochenour, Peggy

Graff, Podge Green, Terry Grigsby, Belle Hamman, Martha Harlow, Mike

& Rebecca Harlow, Tim Harlow, Betty Helsley, Barbara Hollar, Ronnie

Hoffman, Sonny Hovatter, Buck Jones, Jim Lam, Brian Lear, Chris

LoPresti, Wade Ludwig, Keith Manich, Erich McMinn, Jerry Newland,

Linda Perry, Jerry & Judy Polk, Larry Polk, Karen Polk, Linda Perry,

Sherrie Ritenour, Steve Ritenour, Laurie Robinson, Sandy Ross, Roger

Schmitt, Peter Shoemaker, Ed Sine, Keith Taylor, Judy Sharp, Jerry

Walters, John Wymer, and Christine Zuniga.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

NEXT SUNDAY: **October 4, 2026** – **19th Sunday after Pentecost**

8:30 Worship – Service of the Word at Zion – Hymnbook Sunday

9:45 Adult Sunday School meets at both churches.

11:00 Worship will be a Service of Holy Communion at St. Jacob's

Call- in worship is always offered at the 11:00 service.

Conference call: **(425) 436-6395** Toll Free: **(844)-854-2222**

Access Code: **377656 #**

DID YOU KNOW ?

Miriam (his sister) watched as Moses floated in the basket down the Nile and watched as the Pharaoh's daughter found him
(Exodus 2:4)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Night Bible Study: We will be studying John 14, 15, 16 and continue to discuss the work of the Holy Spirit. "*How do we come to know God and have faith?*" is the question. We meet every Wednesday at 6 PM at Zion, and there is a chair just waiting for you!

Registration time has come! Spring Forward will be registering students for the 26-27 academic school year this Tuesday from 4 – 6 PM. **Spring Forward** brochures are available in the entryway. Please be encouraged to share them with families who have elementary-aged children that would benefit from this wonderful program.

Autumn is here! Which means Zion will once again be putting together a Fall display for Homecoming weekend. If you have pumpkins, mums, gourds and other autumn items you would loan us, please let Robin or Pastor Katie know.

Zion Cleaning Day is next Saturday at 9 AM! There is plenty to do, so we can use all hands on deck as we spruce up! We can all have lots of things we need to do, but we can REALLY USE YOUR HELP!

Bible Break Banquet is that same night! It will be 5 – 8 PM on Saturday, October 3 at the Woodstock Moose Lodge and thanks to Cabin Hill Homes, we have sponsored a table that still has a few seats open. Please let Pastor Katie know if you are interested in having a good time next Saturday!

Speaking of the Bible Break Banquet... If you would consider helping set up, arrange flowers, and decorate at the Moose Lodge on Friday morning, your help would be welcome. Let Pastor Katie know of your interest.

Aluminum Recycle is next weekend - Zion will have their monthly aluminum can collection. A truck will appear in the back parking lot ready to receive your donations. Thanks for your help!

Mark your calendar for our **Wreaths Across America** meeting date on **Saturday, October 17, at 9:00 a.m.** We will review ideas and rehearse for our 3rd year, which will be on December 19th at 11:30 a.m.





*Together again - it was great having Steve Campbell back
as our worship assistant last Sunday!*

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Edinburg Lutheran Parish

September 27, 2026

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of Your people, turning us from our sin to live for You alone. Give us the power of Your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive Your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord. **Amen.**

— Silence is kept for reflection —

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We

have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

- Declaration of Forgiveness -

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn # 847 *Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Song*



1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;
2 "Wor- thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex- alt- ed thus!"
3 Je- sus is wor- thy to re- ceive hon- or and pow'r di- vine;
4 Let all cre- a- tion join in one to bless the sa- cred name

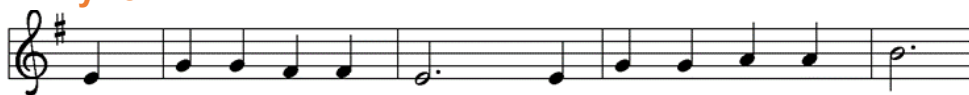


ten thou- sand thou- sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
"Wor- thy the Lamb," our lips re- ply, "for he was slain for us!"
and bless- ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for- ev- er thine.
of God who sits up- on the throne, and to a- dore the Lamb.

Apostolic 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.

Kyrie



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Hymn of Praise # 417 *In His Temple Now Behold Him*

In His temple now behold Him,
see the long-expected Lord;
ancient prophets had foretold Him,
God has sent the promised Word.
Now to praise Him, His redeemed
shall break forth with one accord.

Prince and author of salvation,
be Your boundless love our theme.
Jesus, praise to You be given
by the world You did redeem,
with the Father and the Spirit
God of majesty supreme!

Prayer of the Day

Today's Readings Insert

God's Word



Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13

The Gospel Acclamation



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st Chapter, beginning with the 23rd verse...

Glory to you, O Lord.

The reading of the Gospel

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day # 647 *Glorious Things of You Are Spoken*

Glorious things of you are spoken,
Zion, city of our God!

He whose word cannot be broken
formed you for his own abode.

On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake Your sure repose?

With salvation's walls surrounded,
You may smile at all Your foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply Your sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint, while such a river
ever will their thirst assuage?
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a cov'ring,
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner
light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna
which God gives them on their way.



Savior, since of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in Your name.
Fading are the world's vain
pleasures,
all their boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasures
none but Zion's children know.



Offertory Prayer

God of field and forest, sea and sky,
You are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of Your creation,
and multiply Your grace in us,
that the world may be fed with Your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord. **Amen.**

Offertory

Create in me a clean heart O God
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence,
and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation and
uphold me with Your free spirit.

Apostle's Creed

**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

Lord in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.



The 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

Numbers 6:24-26

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**



Sending Hymn # 545 *Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
 May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
 let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
 Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
 May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Sending

**Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God.**





Today's Readings

Sunday, September 27, 2026
18th Sunday after Pentecost

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.**

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The 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.

Psalm

Psalm 25:1-9; tone 6



To ¹you, O LORD,
I lift ¹up my soul.
²My God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be ¹put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph ¹over me.
³Let none who look to you be
¹put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame
¹who are treacherous.
⁴Show me your ¹ways, O LORD,
and teach ¹me your paths.
⁵Lead me in your ¹truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all ¹the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD,
your compas- ¹sion and love,
for they are from ¹everlasting.
⁷Remember not the sins of my youth
and ¹my transgressions;
remember me
according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your good- ¹ness,
O LORD.
⁸You are gracious and up- ¹right,
O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners
¹in your way.
⁹You lead the low- ¹ly in justice
and teach the low- ¹ly your way.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

If, 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.

Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

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?" 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."

TODAY'S READINGS September 27, 2026 (Lectionary 26)

Volume 57, Number 4

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0166, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1553. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Prayer of the day and psalm from Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in Psalter for Worship, Year A (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year A.

ITEM015051 Tracks 1 and 2

Readings for October

September 28 - October 4

Monday - Psalm 28
Tuesday - Revelation 12:7-12
Wednesday - Judges 16:23-31
Thursday - Psalm 80:7-15
Friday - Philippians 2:14-18, 3:1-4
Saturday - Jeremiah 6:1-10
Sunday - Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15, Ezekiel 3:4-14,
Matthew 21:33-46

October 5 - 11

Monday - Psalm 144
Tuesday - 1 Corinthians 5:17-21
Wednesday - John 11:45-57
Thursday - Psalm 23
Friday - James 4:4-10
Saturday - Isaiah 24:17-23
Sunday - Isaiah 25:1-9, Psalm 23, Philippians 4:1-9,
Matthew 22:1-14

October 12 - 18

Monday - Psalm 34
Tuesday - Amos 9:5-15
Wednesday - John 6:25-35
Thursday - Psalm 96:1-13
Friday - 1 Peter 5:1-5
Saturday - Isaiah 14:3-11
Sunday - Isaiah 45:1-7, Psalm 96:1-13, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10,
Matthew 22:15-22

October 19 - 25

Monday - Luke 1:1-4, 24:44-53
Tuesday - Psalm 98
Wednesday - Matthew 17:22-27
Thursday - Psalm 1
Friday - Titus 2:7-8, 11-15
Saturday - John 5:39-47
Sunday - Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18, Psalm 1, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8,
Matthew 22:34-46

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CENTRAL VALLEY ELCA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

GATHERING WILL INCLUDE:

- WORSHIP
- MUSIC
- FELLOWSHIP
- REFRESHMENTS

PLEASE PLAN TO
ATTEND & MAKE THIS
A JOYFUL EVENT!

BRING A FRIEND!

CAMP CAROLINE FURNACE
UPPER ROOM BUILDING
8495 MORELAND GAP RD,
FORT VALLEY, VA
(USE MORELAND GAP ROAD
ENTRANCE)



SAT. OCT. 24,
2026, 2-4 PM

RSVP: EMAIL STPJEROM@SHENTEL.NET OR CALL: 540-856-2639

Ladies...

*Anyone interested in car-pooling? It looks like an inspirational way to spend an autumn afternoon. **They have asked us to RSVP by October 15** to help with their plans for food.*