Kimball Memorial Lutheran Church
101 Vance St. Kannapolis, NC 28081

September 27, 2026 18th Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 AM

✝*Please stand as you are able. Congregation responses in* ***Bold****.*

Prelude *What a Friend we Have in Jesus* *arr. Robert J. Hughes*

Welcome

✝ Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C Amen.

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

C we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C Amen.

Gathering Hymn *Blessing and Honor* *Next Page*

✝ Greeting

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

C And also with you.

✝ **GATHERING HYMN *ELW* 873** *Blessing and Honor* AMERICAN HYMN



✝ KYRIE *ELW* S 184



✝ CANTICLE OF PRAISE *ELW* S187 *This is the Feast*



PRAYER OF THE DAY

A 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.

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

LET'S TALK *Children's Time*

READING Psalm 25:1-9

L A reading from Psalm 25.

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
2 O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;do not let my enemies exult over me.
3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.
6 Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!
8 Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
9 He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

L Word of God, word of life.
C Thanks be to God.

✝ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *ELW* S188**



✝ 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.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

SERMON *Pastor John Futterer*

ANTHEM *Live Your Love* *Joseph M. Martin*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Apostles' Creed*

A With the people of God in Christ now and in every time, let us confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

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

Prayer petitions will conclude: "Hear us, O God."
The congregation's response is: **"Your mercy is great."**

P 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.

C Amen.

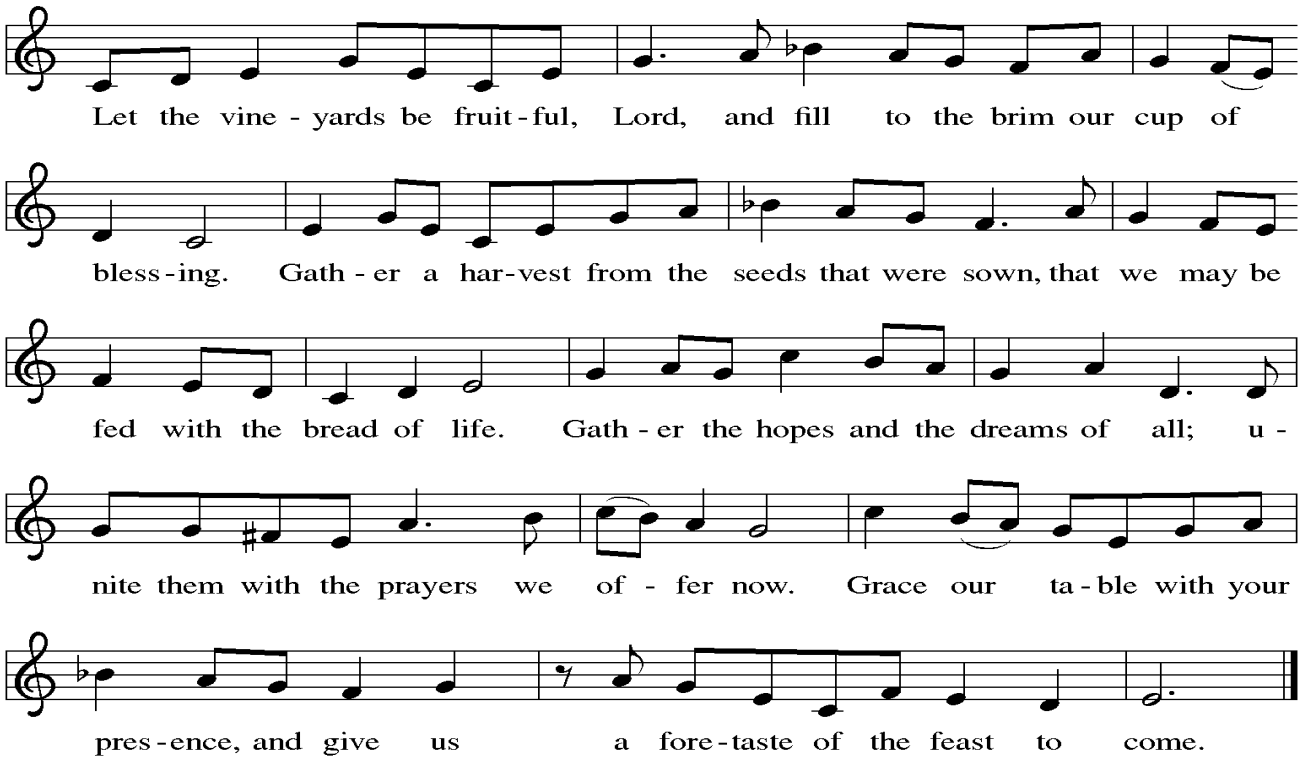
✝ SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

A The peace of the Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

A Please greet those around you with words of peace.

✝ OFFERING PRESENTATION *ELW* 182 *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*



OFFERING PRAYER

P 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.

C Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

We have two options for Communion during this time. You are free to come forward to receive the bread and pre-filled cups of wine from our clergy and lay assistants, returning to your seats after you've deposited the empty cup and following the guidance of our ushers; or you may continue to use the pre-packaged communion elements which are available from the ushers at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Gluton-free is available on request. However you choose to receive Communion this morning, know that we are glad you're here for this Sacrament!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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

P Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit let us pray, as Jesus taught.

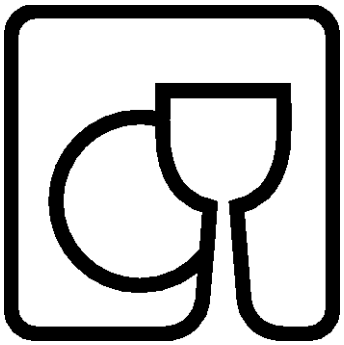
C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION

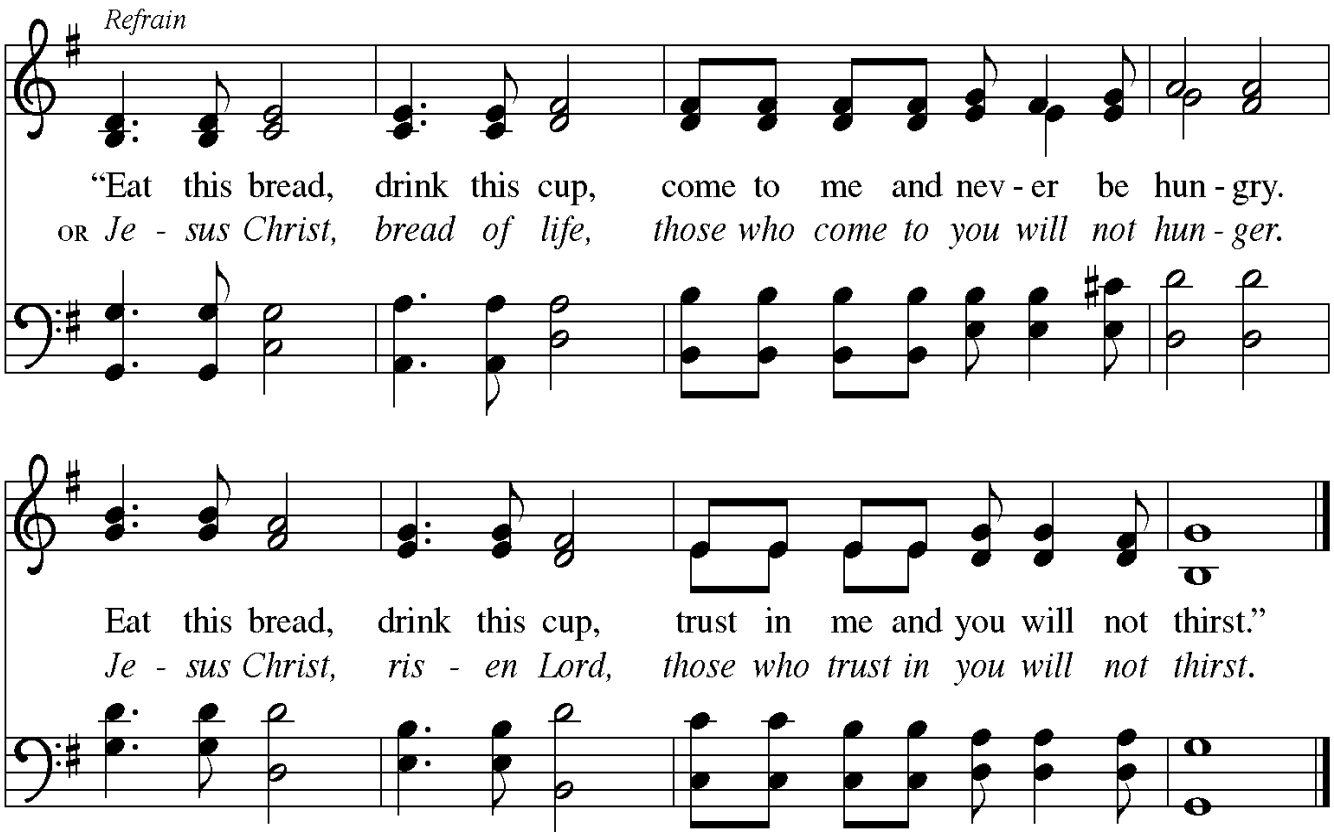
P Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

You may receive the Elements as the words are said:
The Body of Christ given for you; The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Healing Prayer is available under the balcony during Communion if you desire prayer.



COMMUNION HYMN *ELW* 472 *Eat This Bread* BERTHIER



✝ POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P 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.
C Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

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

C Amen.

P The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* *Next Page*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Go With God* *Jane Carrier*

✝ SENDING HYMN *ELW* 742 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* CONVERSE





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?"

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