

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 27, 2026

The Collect of the Day

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: What 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"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know 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 that shall die.

Yet 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? When 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. 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.

Psalm

Psalm 25:1-8

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you;*

let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

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

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

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

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

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

The Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of 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.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Gospel Reading

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?" 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. 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?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." 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.

"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.

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by their loving family in celebration of Lillian and Caroline Tucker's birthday.

Announcements

Birthdays this month

1st: Margot Lindsey
2nd: Michael Buckner
3rd: Tasha Root
4th: Gloria Richards
5th: Jane Hale
11th: David Brown
11th: Terisa Kirschke
19th: Ethan Bohnsack
19th: Robyn Murphy
19th: Roxanne Brink
23rd: Kyle Glave
24th: Caroline Tucker
26th: Lillian Tucker
27th: Helen Daniel Glave
27th: Ava Rook

This Week at SMAA

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

6:00 pm Evening Prayer, SMAA Feast Day

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

6:00 pm Dinner & The Sacrament of Pilgrimage

Sunday, October 4, 2026

10:00 am Holy Eucharist: Fr. Kevin Wittmayer

The Fest Day of St. Michael

This Tuesday we will celebrate our founding Feast Day of St. Michael and All Angels', by worshipping together at 6 PM in the Sanctuary with Evening Prayer.

One Dollar for One Love Please drop a one-dollar bill in the "One Dollar for One Love" box located in the entryway. Your donations provide **ongoing support for One Love and its ministry**. Additionally, all loose-cash offerings received on the **second Sunday of each month** will be designated for **One Love**.

Discover, Newcomers & New Members Discussion

The discussion will begin on **October 4th** after church.

Pumpkins Needed Help us fill our church with the beauty of fall. Beginning Sunday, September 27, we'll be decorating the church entryway and lining the sidewalk with large pumpkins to create a warm and welcoming autumn atmosphere for our church family and guests. Please consider bringing a large pumpkin to help us brighten our space for the season.

Lifted – Youth Program Lifted will meet immediately after the Sunday service on the following dates: **September 27, October 4, and 25**.

For a Birthday Blessing

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant *N*. as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus, Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

For a Wedding Anniversary Blessing

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Prayer Requests

Healing For:

- Libby & Fred Menger
- Bill & Inge Dunning
- Ryan & Kristie Pierce
- Katy Bryant
- Charlyne White
- Carolyn Deakins
- Catherine White
- Francie Bailey
- The family of Kathleen Bullock
- Susan Brown
- JoLee Ferguson
- Andrew McWhorter
- Lorraine and Margie Litterski

To submit a prayer request, fill out the back of the information sheet in the pew and place it in the offering.

Or, send an email with your request to: prayer@smaalongview.org

**** Emailed prayer requests are received by all who've signed up for the SMAA prayer chain. This community of prayer is committed to holding up our needs and thanksgivings to God whenever they are shared. TO JOIN IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY, JUST SEND A REQUEST TO SMAA@SMAALONGVIEW.ORG ASKING TO BE A PART OF THE PRAYER CHAIN. ****

This Sunday's Servers

Acolytes: Dana Parker

Cameras & Streaming: Michael Buckner

Eucharistic Ministers: Laura Buckner

Greeter: Susan Kuhlman

Lector: Susan Brown

Nursery Helper: Becky Supercinski

Ushers: Tommy Read, Louis Zak

Vestry People: Patti Maxwell, Teresa Read

Worship Tech: Bryan White

NEXT Sunday's Servers (10/04)

Acolytes: Wayne Workman

Cameras & Streaming: Bryan White

Eucharistic Ministers: David Brown

Greeter: Tommy Read

Lector: Becky Supercinski

Nursery Helper: Helen Daniel Glave

Ushers: Chip Doran, Stephen Smith

Vestry People: Wayne Workman, Janice Bynum

Worship Tech: Devin McLaughlin