

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York

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September 27, 2026

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist Rite II



“When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien.
The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you;
you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt:

I am the LORD your God.” (Leviticus 19:33-34)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Time prior to the start of the liturgy is a time for quiet meditation and prayer.

Please welcome Gail Shepherd, our guest musician this morning.

Prelude Organ Voluntary (10:30)	<i>O God, Thou Faithful God, JS Bach</i>
Entrance Hymn (10:30)	Hymnal 483
Opening Acclamation	BCP 355
The Collect for Purity	BCP 355
Gloria in excelsis (8:30)	BCP 356
Gloria in excelsis (10:30)	S-277

The S-section is located in the front of the Hymnal 1982.

The Salutation & The Collect of the Day	BCP 357
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.	

Please be seated.

THE WORD OF GOD

The First Lesson	<i>Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32</i>
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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.

	The Word of the Lord.	Thanks be to God.
Psalm 25:1-8		Ad te, Domine, levavi

The psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

- 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 Lesson

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 Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as you are able.

Sequence Hymn (10:30)

Hymnal 554

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 21:23-32

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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

The Sermon

Rev. Frieda Van Baalen Webb

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People, Form VI

BCP 392

Parish Prayer List: David Noller, Jim Cosbey, Darlene, Kim Greene, Nekka Scott, Samuel, Ibrahim, The Rev’d Canon Wadie Far, Beth Regan, Cynthia Lipsius Gembola, Carol Burns, Jim Bigaj, Chris Yeager, Amber B., Halsey VanLew, Jim Russo, Mimy Butler, Father John Paul Boyer, Oliver Patterson, Vincent (Buz) M., Charlie Ohl

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

BCP 360

The Parish Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Organ Voluntary (10:30)	<i>Andante Semplice</i> , Tomlinson
The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A	BCP 361
Sanctus (10:30)	S-124
Agnus Dei (10:30)	S-161
Communion Hymn (10:30)	Hymnal 337

Post-Communion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

People: Amen.

Hymn (10:30)	Hymnal 553
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Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Organ Voluntary (10:30)	<i>Voluntary</i> , Stanley
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Lectors

September 27
8:30 Nancy & Dale Cich
10:30 L1: Bev Barry
L2: Marji Torrell
PotP: Bev Barry

October 4, 2026
8:30 Paul Hojnacki
10:30 L1: Dottie Aikman
L2: Elaine Richau
PotP: Dottie Aikman

Calendar

9/27 The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30AM Holy Eucharist Rite II (Spoken)
10:30AM Holy Eucharist Rite II with music

9/30 Wednesday

10AM-2PM Food Pantry
6PM Worship Service with music

10/4 The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30AM Holy Eucharist Rite II (Spoken)
10:30AM Holy Eucharist Rite II with music

Upcoming Events

10/4 Sunday

3PM to 4PM Pete’s Pet Food Pantry

Announcements

Prayer List Reset

The prayer list will be reset as of 10/1. All names will be removed. Please notify the office if you would like to keep someone on the prayer list after 10/1. Thank you.

United Thank Offering

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of the Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. UTO reminds us to think of all the things in our life that we are thankful for, and to continue with our spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages one to pray, give thanks to God, and make a thank offering. Good Shepherd's fall ingathering for UTO is Sunday, October 4. UTO envelopes are available at the Church entrances and in the pews. (If you write a check, please make it payable to Good Shepherd and put UTO in the memo line.)

Donate

To conveniently make a donation, simply scan the QR code below with your smartphone to access our online giving page. As a reminder, the Diocese is no longer covering our online processing fees. If you prefer to pay online, please consider using your bank's bill pay function to donate. It typically has no fees associated with the transaction. Thank you!



Please consider remembering Good Shepherd in your will. It is a wonderful way to continue your support of your parish into the future for generations.

Good Shepherd Staff

The Reverend Frieda Van Baalen Webb, *Supply Priest*
Jessica Thorington, *Administrative Assistant*

Vestry

Dale Cich & Elaine Richau, Wardens;
Pat Lalonde, Treasurer; Nancy Cich, Clerk;
Class of 2026: Charlene Gottfried, Susan Woods
Class of 2027: Marji Torrell, Linda Leighbody
Class of 2028: Bev Barry, Kathy Toth

Parish Office Hours

Fri 9AM - 11AM

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Faith, Hope, and Charity -- Bas-relief sculpture of the three theological virtues.
<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59053>