

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 1, 2023

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 Susan Schug in celebration of four family members’ birthdays in October and my recovery anniversary.

Announcements

Birthdays this month

4th: Brad Tidwell
 5th: Bryan White
 8th: Amy Brown
 8th: Fr. Bill Carroll
 8th: Tommy Read
 20th: Gianna Glave
 21st: Ken Root
 26th: Joshua Martinez

This Week at SMAA

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

6:00 pm Dinner & fellowship

Sunday, October 8, 2023

9:00 am Bible Study

10:00am Holy Eucharist

Blessing of the Animals

Join us **TODAY Sunday, October 1st at 1:00 PM** for the Annual Blessing of the Animals. Dogs, Cats, and other pets-small and large, furry, and non-furry are all welcome. Kids are welcome to bring a stuffed animal to bless. We will be taking offerings of pet food for the local animal shelter.

Church Workday

Saturday, October 14th. Need Volunteers for our upcoming workday. Please join us at **7:00 AM** to help with some general outside clean up.

Trunk or Treat

Join us on **Sunday, October 29th, 5-7 PM** at First Christian Church. We need kids, parents, and adults to give out candy and bring candy for the event. If you would like to donate candy for this event, you may bring your candy to church. You can place it in Mother's Tracey's office.

All Saints' Day: Remember the Saints in our Lives Sunday, November 5TH

Please join us for All Saints' Sunday service to honor and remember our loved ones. Please bring a photograph, or a small token to represent whom you love who have gone before us. We will display them on the altar for the Eucharistic prayer that day, as well as remember the names of those you would like us to remember. We will celebrate with a potluck lunch, after the service. Please bring favorite foods of our beloved friends and family that we are remembering.

Please send those names by **Wednesday, November 1st by 12:00 PM**

Altar Flowers

If you would like to donate the flowers for the service, the Flower Dedication forms for 2022 are in the narthex.

Prayer Requests

Healing For:

- Curtis Cobb
- Connie Lawrence
- The Akinson & Brown Families
- Lorraine, Pete 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. ****

Stewardship Update

DATE	GIVING	BUDGET	ABOVE/BELOW
09/03/23	\$2,616	\$2,939	-\$323
09/10/23	\$3,135	\$2,939	\$196
09/17/23	\$3,651	\$2,939	\$712
09/24/23	\$1,660	\$2,939	-\$1,279
YTD TOTALS	\$127,930	\$114,616	\$13,315

This Sunday's Servers

Acolytes: Michael Greathouse

Cameras & Streaming: Robert Brown

Danny's Team: Mary Lynn Dawes

Eucharistic Ministers: Frank Supercinski

Greeter: Patti Maxwell

Lector: Susan Brown

Nursery Helper: Ruby Hahne

Ushers: Donna Richardson

Vestry People: Susan Kuhlman, Tommy Smith

Worship Tech: Melinda Smith

Next Sunday's Servers (10/08)

Acolytes: Norah Lindsey

Cameras & Streaming: Michael Greathouse

Danny's Team: Diane Buffington

Eucharistic Ministers: Amy Brown

Greeter: Susan Kuhlman

Lector: David Brown

Nursery Helper: Mary Lynn Dawes, Roxanne Brink

Ushers: Frank Supercinski

Vestry People: Samantha Rauch, Roxanne Brink

Worship Tech: Gianna Glave

St. Michael & All Angels' Episcopal Church

The Rev. Tracey F. Carroll

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