



***Jesus was questioned
by the Jewish leaders
about His authority***

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Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCOMES YOU HERE! We are pleased that you have come to receive God's gift of forgiveness. Pentecost and the Sundays after Pentecost emphasize the work of the Holy Spirit through God's Word and Sacraments in growing the Church, so we especially invite you to join us in our Bible Classes, as well as in all of our other activities. If you have no church home, you are cordially invited to consider making Pilgrim Lutheran Church your church home!

AS YOU ARRIVE, please move down the pew towards the wall, in order to leave room for others. If you arrive late, please wait for an appropriate time to enter the sanctuary, such as during a hymn. Please also remember to turn off your cell phones and/or any other electronic devices. Thank you!

ORDER OF SERVICE: To your right you will find today's order of service. The right side of that outline indicates from where the item listed comes: either in this bulletin or the hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*, with the Psalms towards the front, its liturgical pages towards the middle, and its hymns towards the back. The Δ symbol before a hymn stanza indicates that it especially gives glory to the Triune God; we stand before singing the stanza and, in most cases, conclude the stanza by singing "Amen.", if an "Amen" is not already included.

HOLY COMMUNION: At Pilgrim we value your presence among us and love and care about our guests and visitors! However, due to the sad divisions that exist in the world and even in Christianity, we cannot commune everyone at the Lord's Table here. We respectfully ask that guests and visitors who desire to commune first speak with the pastor well before the service. All those present but not communing still may approach the rail for a blessing: come forward and kneel with those who are communing, but fold your arms over your heart and place your hands on the opposite shoulders. For more information about the ancient practice of Closed Communion, see <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/closed-communion>.

INDIVIDUAL CUPS: The top of the tray contains several individual cups of highly-diluted wine. If you receive the blood of Christ in an individual cup, please be sure to wait to consume it until Pastor comes by with the chalice, so that he knows you are receiving it in that fashion. If the supply of individual cups is depleted, please accept the blood of Christ from the chalice.

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

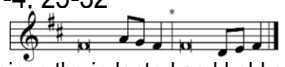
2026 SEPTEMBER 27

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE (*Lutheran Service Book*, pp.151-166.)

+ + + IN THE NAME OF JESUS + + +

Catechesis	Section 3: Table of Duties (To Parents/Children)	328
Confession and Absolution (right column)		151

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Entrance Hymn:	"Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs"	812
Kyrie		152-153
Hymn of Praise:	"Gloria in Excelsis"	154
Salutation and Collect of the Day		156
Old Testament (& Response): Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32		156
Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10 (antiphon: v.4)		25
(Chant the Psalm responsively: the congregation sings the indented and bold portions. The indicated antiphon is sung both before the Psalm and after the <i>Gloria Patri</i> . See LSB xxvi for how the text and the tone correspond.)		
Epistle (& Response): Philippians 2:1-18		156
Alleluia and Verse (Common)		156
Holy Gospel (& Responses): Matthew 21:23-32		157
Hymn of the Day:	"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"	655
Sermon	Matthew 21:23-32	
Apostles' Creed		159
Prayer of the Church, Offering, & Offertory		159-160
 For ... let us pray to the Lord:  Lord, have mercy. (Offerings placed in the Box in the Narthex before the Service are brought forward here.)		

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Proper Preface, Sanctus, Prayer of Thanksgiving, (right column)		160-163
Lord's Prayer, The Words of Our Lord, Pax Domini, & Agnus Dei		
Distribution (& Distribution Hymns):		164
"Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service"		848
"What God Ordains Is Always Good"		760
"Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow"		428
Post-Communion Canticle	"Thank the Lord"	164
Post-Communion Collect & Benediction		166
Closing Hymn:	"Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng"	813

+ + + TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY + + +

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

BEFORE THE SERVICE: As you greet and visit one another, please be sensitive to others who may wish an opportunity for silence to pray and otherwise to prepare for worship.

OFFERING BOX: Offerings may be placed in the Offering Box in the Narthex before or after services. Envelopes are available on the side of the Box for your use, such as if you would like your cash offering to be recorded, tracked, and receipted in a report back to you.

PEW CUSHIONS: If you would like to use a cushion either for your seat or for your seat and back, cushions for your use are available in the Usher's Closet off the north side of the Narthex.

PEW SLIPS: *Visitors*, please register your attendance both by completing a slip from rack on the back of the pews and placing them in the Offering Box in the Narthex and by signing the Guest Register at the door. *Members*, please complete a slip only if your contact information has changed or you have a new or updated prayer-list request. (The Usher tracks church attendance and communion participation.)

GROWING IN WORSHIP: Parents, please make use of the bulletins available in the Narthex for children aged 5-10, including the bulletins' activities for the whole week!

LARGER-PRINT/FLOW-THROUGH BINDERS are available in the Narthex for those who have trouble seeing the smaller-print of the hymnal, those with other special needs who cannot follow the liturgy in the hymnal or handle its weight, and those who are visiting Pilgrim who are not already familiar with liturgical services and/or our hymnal. If you need or otherwise want to use a flow-through and can help minimize paper and copying expenses, a PDF of the flow-through binder's contents is available in the upper-right corner of Pilgrim's homepage, www.pilgrimlc.org, to open on or to download to your electronic device.

PRAYER REQUEST: If you have a special petition for the Prayers of the Church, please notify the Usher, Elder on Duty, or Pastor before the service.

IF A NEED SHOULD ARISE, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Restrooms are available in the Parish Hall (non-ADA Restrooms are available in the Office Area, one with a change table), and there is a Cry Room (also with a change table) off the south side of the Narthex. Let the Usher or Elder-on-Duty know if you need assistance or supplies.

Announcements continue on the inside of this insert.

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LAST WEEK: There were 0 students but 1 teacher prepared for Sunday School; 14 people were present in-person for Adult Bible Class, and 3 devices were connected via Jitsi; 32 people were present in-person for the Sunday Divine Service (16 communed), and 4 devices streamed the service live via YouTube; 1 catechumen was present in-person for the Tuesday afternoon youth class; 3 people were present in-person for Midweek Bible Study, and 2 devices were connected via Jitsi; and 3 catechumens were present in-person for Thursday-evening family catechesis. (Thursday afternoon youth catechesis was not held due to one catechumens last-minute unavailability.)

THANKS: to all those caring for the inside and outside of Pilgrim's facilities; to all those helping with the video and audio for classes and services; and to Ellen Menconi for her Church Office work.

SERVING TODAY: The Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler, Pastor; Carl Gardner, Elder on Duty; and Elaine Navaille, Accompanist.

LIFE THOUGHTS: "In humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:1-18). How different God's words through St. Paul are than what we often hear today! "You are more significant than others", or "Look to your own interests." "My body, my choice", or "Caring for that sick person (parent, spouse, or child) is ruining my vibe." In Christ we see the value of each life and experience the joy that God provides loving and serving others.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS: The foolish Pharisees were afraid to confess the truth about John the Baptizer more than they were afraid of God by not confessing that same truth (Matthew 21:23-32). So, they missed out on the great blessing of knowing Jesus and His love. Our sins are similar: we fear something else more than we fear God. And, how foolish we are! Just think of the blessings that we miss out on whenever we place our fear or trust in something other than God!

AS YOU DEPART, please be mindful of those who are ushered out behind you, who may have difficulty standing and waiting, and so who may need an open path to the door and to get to their cars quickly. If you stop to talk to someone in the Sanctuary, please keep the aisle as clear as possible, and please delay lengthier conversations with the pastor until after he has greeted everyone. Thank you for your consideration!

“LOOSE-CHANGE SUNDAY”: Please use the large Mite Box in the Narthex today after the service, in order to contribute your loose change and more, beyond your regular offering, for LWML mites that in part fund District and National mission grants. (Current lists of grant recipients are on the bulletin board above the Mite Box.)

AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX are hardcopies of the October 2026 edition of Pilgrim’s monthly newsletter, *The Pilgrimage*; the larger-print schedule of Daily Bible Reading for October and November; Pastor Galler’s recent newspaper columns (including his 09/19 column titled, “Even AI falls under our all-mighty God’s rule”); Issue #17 (Summer 2026) of *Christian Culture: A printed Magazine for Lutherans* from Luther Classical College; *Portals of Prayer* for October-November 2026; the latest Church Directory (dated 2026/08/27 and printed on ivory paper); Pilgrim’s Constitution, Bylaws, and updated Standing Rules; and Pilgrim’s Funeral Planning Worksheet for completing, discussing with Pastor Galler, and filing in the Church Office.

PILGRIM’S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETS AS ITS BUDGET COMMITTEE today after the Divine Service in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend and discuss Pilgrim’s plan to disburse the offerings the congregation expects to receive in 2027. An electronic copy of the latest working-draft of the 2027 Budget was distributed to Pilgrim members by email, and hard copies are available in the Narthex.

HELP NEEDED: Pilgrim urgently needs a Financial Secretary, a Facilities Coordinator, and an Inreach Coordinator, and we also could use another Elder and a Vice-President. If you are willing to take on such responsibility on a temporary interim or regular term basis, please speak with Acting-President Remo Gualtieri or Pastor Galler. Thank you for prayerfully considering the congregation’s needs as you serve God and neighbor!

STUDY HOURS: Pastor Galler is usually in his study Tuesdays from 5:00-8:00 p.m., Wednesdays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, and Saturdays Noon to 3:00 p.m. Come for Individual Confession and Absolution (see *Lutheran Service Book* 292-293) or for any other reason. Pastor Galler is also available at other times by appointment at Pilgrim, or he can come to you (email pastor@pilgrimlc.org or text/call 903-984-4333). For emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Galler.

CATECHESIS: Tuesday, September 29, the in-person youth class will meet at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library. Thursday, October 1,

Announcements continue from the inside of this insert.

the on-line youth class will meet at 4:15 p.m. via Jitsi, and the in-person family class will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

“ALL THE PROPHETS TESTIFY”: Pilgrim’s Midweek Bible Study will meet this Wednesday, September 30, at 7:00 p.m., to discuss Hosea 5:8-6:6. All people are welcome to participate in the Study, either in-person in the Conference Room/Library or on-line via Jitsi. For more information and for the handouts and audio and video files from past sessions, see <https://www.pilgrimlc.org/bible-studies/prophets>.

NEXT SUNDAY: 9:15 a.m. Refreshments; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class (“Basic Bible Accounts”); and 10:45 a.m. Divine Service, followed by a gathering of the 15-2 Folk.

Readings: Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:7-19; Phil 3:4b-14; and Mt 21:33-46.

Hymns: LSB 904, 544, LW 273, LSB 517 (w/ st.12), 753, and 568.

Prepare yourself for worship in advance by praying about, reading over, and meditating on the appointed Scripture Readings and Hymns.

“BASIC BIBLE ACCOUNTS”: Next Sunday, Pilgrim’s Sunday-morning Adult Bible Class continues its “just the facts, ma’am” approach to essential Bible “stories”, with each session covering one account. All are welcome! For more information, and for the handouts and audio and video files from past sessions, see <https://pilgrimlc.org/bible-studies/basic-bible-accounts>.

“THE 15-2 FOLK” will gather next Sunday, October 4, after the Divine Service, in the Great Room of the Parish Hall, for heavy snacking and Cribbage playing. All are welcome to stay for the heavy snacking, even if not staying for the Cribbage playing! If you do not know how to play Cribbage, they will teach you! You can stay also to observe the games or just to visit with those playing them.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Please submit reports from the Third Quarter of 2026 and any agenda items for the Fourth-Quarter Council Meeting to Recording Secretary Rita Whitley by next Sunday, October 4, so that the Meeting’s Packet can be compiled, distributed, and otherwise made available well before that October 25 Council Meeting.

HOW ARE YOU WILLING TO SERVE PILGRIM IN 2027? Pilgrim’s nomination process for next year is underway. Please pray about your serving the congregation in an official capacity during 2027, and then please speak to Acting-President Remo Gualtieri, Elders’ Chair Carl Gardner, or Pastor Galler about how you would like to serve.

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