



Emmanuel
LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

11 AM Traditional Worship, September 27, 2026
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Year of Matthew

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Vienna, VA

Worship Livestream at
facebook.com/elcvienna
youtube.com/user/ELCVienna
elcvienna.org





Gathering: The Holy Spirit Gathers Us in Worship

Prelude

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" by David Johnson. One License 98941.

Welcome

Good morning and welcome to worship at Emmanuel Lutheran Church! You can find bulletins and ways to give online at elcvienna.org. Here in person, you will find hymnals, Bibles, prayer cards, offering envelopes, and a QR code for offerings in the pew holders. Our liturgy is projected on the walls. We do have large-print bulletins and hearing assistance devices available. Ask our ushers in the back of the sanctuary about those. We invite newcomers to stop by our welcome table just outside the sanctuary after worship.

Invocation

Pastor: In this holy season after Pentecost, we are gathered in the name of the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

ELW 392

- 1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."
- 2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us;
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,



shall our hearts forget his promise:
"I am with you evermore"?

- 3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful
flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.
- 4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.
As within the veil you entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest,
here on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.
- 5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt. Public domain.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Pastor: In holy Baptism, God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope.

All: Thanks be to God!



Pastor: By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

All: Thanks be to God!

Pastor: We are claimed as God's children through faith, we are a new creation, and our sins are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

Pastor: We are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked by the ✝ cross of Christ forever.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

Hymn of Praise

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
ELW 884

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711. Public domain.

Word: God Speaks to Us in Scripture and Prayer

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel, chapter eighteen.

Reader:

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What 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"? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know 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 who shall die.

²⁵Yet 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? ²⁶When 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. ²⁷Again, when the



wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ 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?

³⁰ 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. ³¹ 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? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 25:1-9

We will be singing the Psalm. The cantor sings the refrain, and the congregation repeats the refrain. The verses are sung responsively. The refrain is repeated as indicated by "R".

[R] Refrain:



Psalm 25:6

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Tone:



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹ To I you, O LORD,
I lift I up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be I put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph I over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be I put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame I who are treacherous.



⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths. R**

⁵ 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.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
goodness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way. **R**

Philippians 2:1-13

Reader: A reading from Saint Paul's letter to the Philippians, chapter two.

Reader:

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any
partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy
complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord
and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in
humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to
your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in
you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,



to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God!

Children's Message

Children are invited forward for a message just for them! After the children's message, children are invited to Children's Chapel and will return to the sanctuary afterward.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
ELW 858 v. 1

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Public domain.

Matthew 21:23-32

Pastor: The good news of Jesus Christ according to the gospel of Saint Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

Pastor:

²³ 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."

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord!

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

Message

"The Best Son" based upon Matthew 21 by Pastor Lydia Posselt

Hymn of the Day

How Small Our Span of Life
ELW 636

1

How small our span of life, O God,
our years from birth till death:
a single beat within the heart,
the catching of a breath,
a drop within the ocean's deep,
a grain upon the shore,
a flash of light before we sleep
to see the sun no more.

2

And yet our speck of life is spanned
by your infinity;
our tick of time on earth is caught
in your eternity.
While suns and stars spin endlessly
through depths of cosmic space,
while aeons roll and ages pass,
you hold us in your grace.

3

O Christ, you left eternity
to plunge in time's swift stream,
to share the shortness of our span,



our mortal lives redeem.
You filled your cross-closed years with love;
you loved us to the end
and touch us with your risen life
that ours may time transcend.

4

We thank you, God, for kindling faith
that lights our transient years,
illuminating our pilgrimage
through mists of doubt and fears;
for hope that sees a life beyond
the swiftly passing days;
for love, both human and divine,
that lifts our hearts to praise.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923. One License 29608.

Apostle's Creed

Leader: We confess our common faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

Leader: Led by the Holy Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.



Leader: We pray for the church universal, for its ministries, and for the spread of the gospel through our hands. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: For the nations and those who govern. Give those in authority understanding hearts, that they work together to bring justice and peace on earth. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: For those in need, we pray for... God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: We remember the faithful departed. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us in faith. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

All: Amen.

Peace

Leader: May the peace of the Risen Lord be with you always!

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share signs of peace.

Offering

Offerings in support of our mission and ministry can be made at elcvienna.org/give or mailed to the church. Offering envelopes and QR codes are in the pew holders. Ushers will take the offering in person. Every gift matters—thank you!

Choral Offertory

"All Who Are Thirsty," text and music by Brian Wentzel. One License 97443.

Meal: Jesus Gives Us Forgiveness and Life

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving, Setting One, ELW p. 107

Pastor: The Lord be with you.



All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy, Setting One, p. 108

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy Communion Words of Institution



Pastor: We remember that in the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Pastor: And 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me."

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God. All are welcome here at the Lord's table.

All: Thanks be to God!

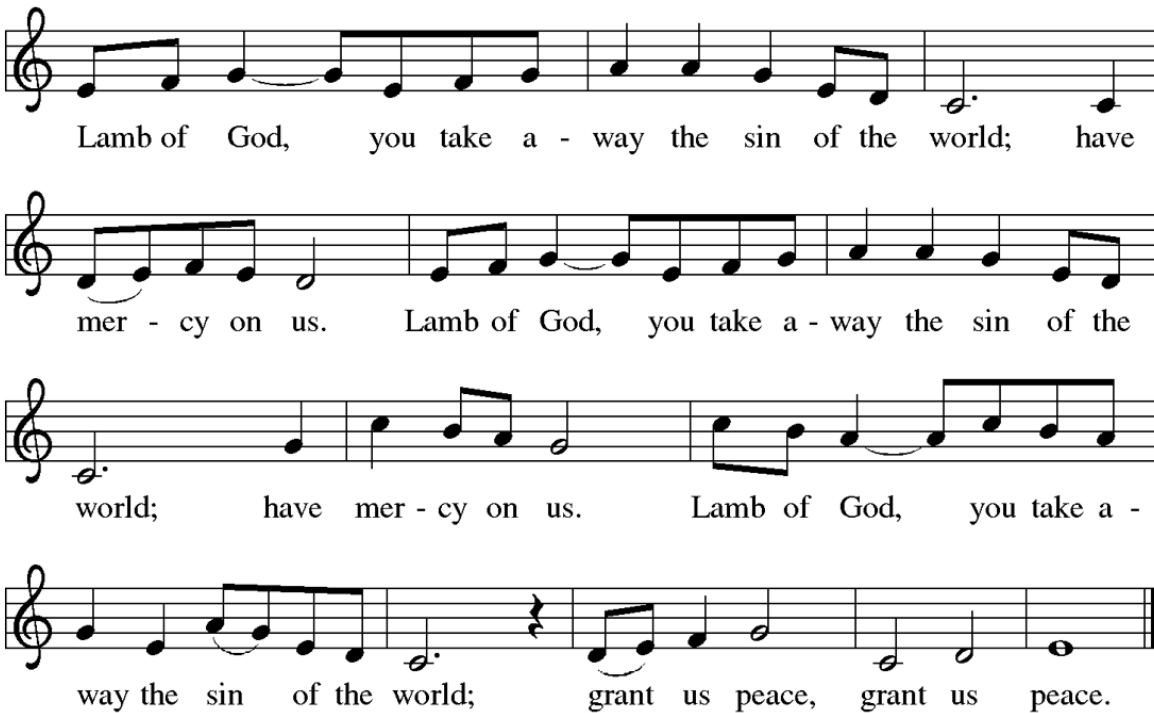
Communion Instructions

All are invited to come forward to receive communion or a blessing. Wafers will be dipped in wine and handed to you. If you prefer a wafer without wine, please let us know. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. We have goldfish and a blessing for our children who are not communing. You are also welcome to pray at the communion rail after you have been communed.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

ELW Setting One, p. 112



One License # AF2019242

Communion Music

Simple Gifts, arranged by Ricky Lombardo. One License 14310.
Deb Collier, flute; Nancye Williamson, Piano.

Sending: The Holy Spirit Leads Us in Mission to the World

Invitation to Ministry

As the Spirit leads us out into mission in the world, we invite you to join us in our ministries. We invite our newcomers to stop by the welcome table just outside the sanctuary to connect and learn more about the work of our congregation.

Blessing

Leader: May God the Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you in faith, hope, and love.

All: Amen.

Sending Hymn

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine



Leaning on the Everlasting Arms ELW 774

- 1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

Leaning, leaning, (Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,) safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, (leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,) leaning on the everlasting arms.

- 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain

- 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1929. One License 195595.

Sending

Leader: Go in peace and serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

"Go, My Children, With My Blessing", setting by Kristina Langlois. One License 10-721.2.

Thank you so much for worshipping with us!

Join Us in Making a Difference

Our mission is to nurture, grow, and share our Christian faith as Lutherans in a multicultural world. We envision Emmanuel Lutheran Church as a welcoming, vibrant, growing, and faith-filled Christian community whose



participants generously share their time, talents, and resources in a changing world.

You Are Welcome Here

Emmanuel Lutheran Church welcomes all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome and affirm full participation by all because God welcomes all, regardless of race, culture, national origin, citizenship status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, relationship or socio-economic status, addictions, physical or mental health, disability, imprisonment, age, or other circumstances. Our unity is in Christ.

We Honor the First People

As the Holy Spirit gathers us in worship, we acknowledge that Lutherans in the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod, ELCA, worship, live, and work on the ancestral homelands of the Nacotchtank (also referred to as Anacostan), Piscataway peoples, Pamunkey, Putuxent, Susquehannock, and Yacocomico peoples; as well as the Doeg, and the Virginia tribes—including the Rappahannock, Pamunkey, Upper Mattaponi, Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Nansemond, Monacan, Manahoac, Mattaponi, Patawomeck, and Nottaway. Emmanuel Lutheran Church gathers upon the ancestral lands of the Piscataway and Manahoac peoples. Find out more about the Piscataway at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piscataway_people and the Manahoac at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manahoac. Learn more about native ancestral lands at <https://native-land.ca/>.

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