

Lectionary

You are invited to follow the first two readings while seated, and as is the custom, to just listen, standing if possible, as the Holy Gospel is proclaimed.

Sunday 27th September 2026 Trinity 17

The Collect

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless
till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we
shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son
our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-end

A reading from the book of Ezekiel.

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 right-
eousness 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 com-
mitted 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 ac-
cording 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.

This is the word of the Lord,

All: Thanks be to God.

New Testament: Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consol-
ation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and
sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, hav-
ing 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 oth-
ers. 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 hum-
bled 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 be-
loved, 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.

This is the word of the Lord,

All: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

When he 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 fa-
ther went to the second and said the same; and he an-
swered, "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 be-
lieved him; and even after you saw it, you did not change
your minds and believe him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and
follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good
works;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**