

Ezekiel: 18: 25b-32

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? 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. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet 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?

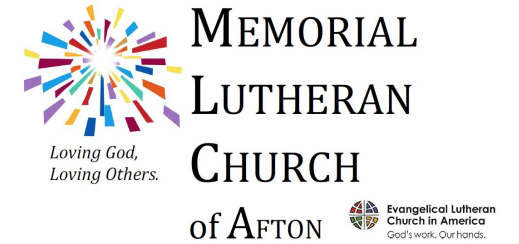
³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Matthew 21:23-32

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?' ²⁴Jesus 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. ²⁵Did 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?"' ²⁶But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' ²⁷So 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." ²⁹He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. ³¹Which 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. ³²For 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.

September 27, 2020



Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn

Jesus, We Are Gathered

ELW #529

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

We begin worship with a time of reflection and honesty before God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

Faithful God, **have mercy on us.**

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We turn from your loving embrace to serve worldly masters.

We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Give us humble hearts that turn away from sin so we can walk every day in the newness of life you alone can give. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of +Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live now in freedom and do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

Installation of New Members

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ? **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith. **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Scripture Reading, Ezekiel 18: 25b-32 *found on back of bulletin*

Gospel Reading, Matthew 21: 23-32 *found on back of bulletin*

Sermon Pastor Elizabeth Damico-Carper

Hymn of the Day *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* **ELW #623**

Holy Baptism pg. 227

Prayers of Intercession Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Communion

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

Communion Distribution

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, gracious God, **that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Closing Hymn *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises* **ELW #535**

Benediction

Sending Music

*If you plan to visit with others after worship,
please wear a mask to protect your neighbor.*