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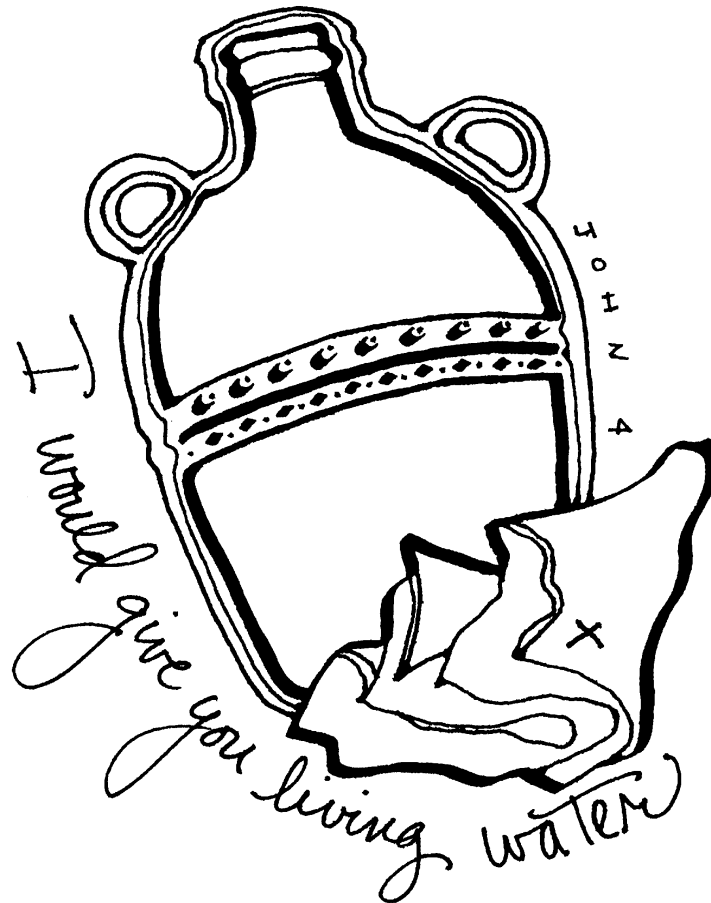
Trinity 16
September 20, 2026

Hymns: **518:1-2** **517:1-5** **517:11-14** **586:12**
(Words are printed in this folder)

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TODAY'S DIVINE SERVICE

(Rite One, pages 41-59 in the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*)

THE OPENING PRAYER (*Stand*)

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: 518 vv. 1-2 "Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You"

1 Rise! To arms! With prayer employ you,
O Christians, lest the Foe destroy you;

For Satan has designed your fall.
Wield God's Word, a weapon glorious;

Against each foe you'll be victorious.
Our God will set you o'er them all.
Is Satan strong and fell?
Here is Emmanuel.
Sing hosanna!
The strong ones yield,
With Christ our Shield,
And we as conqu'ror's hold the field.

2 Cast afar this world's vain pleasures,
Aye, boldly fight for heav'nly treasures,

And steadfast be in Jesus' might.
He will help, whate'er betide you,
And naught will harm with Christ beside you;
By faith you'll conquer in the fight.
Then shame, thou weary soul!
Look forward to the goal:
There joy waits thee.
The race, then, run;
The combat done,
Thy crown of glory will be won.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN (*Stand*)

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us: have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us a true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE KYRIE ELEISON (LORD, HAVE MERCY)

C: ♪ O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us. O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us. O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter, have mercy upon us.

THE ABSOLUTION

P: Lift up your hearts unto God! Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all. Amen.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

P: Glory be to God in the highest!

C: ♪ And on earth peace, good will toward men. All glory be to God on high who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, the strife at last is ended; God showeth His good will to men, and peace shall dwell on earth again; O thank Him

for His goodness!

THE SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

THE COLLECT (Prayer for the Day):

P: Almighty and everlasting God, You are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 2 Chronicles 32:1-23 *(Sit)*

After these things and these acts of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah and encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them for himself.

² And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and intended to fight against Jerusalem, ³ he planned with his officers and his mighty men to stop the water of the springs that were outside the city; and they helped him. ⁴ A great many people were gathered, and they stopped all the springs and the brook that flowed through the land, saying, “Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?” ⁵ He set to work resolutely and built up all the wall that was broken down and raised towers upon it, and outside it he built another wall, and he strengthened the Millo in the city of David. He also made weapons and shields in abundance. ⁶ And he set combat commanders over the people and gathered them together to him in the square at the gate of the city and spoke encouragingly to them, saying, ⁷ “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him. ⁸ With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

⁹ After this, Sennacherib king of Assyria, who was besieging Lachish with all his forces, sent his servants to Jerusalem to Hezekiah king of Judah and to all the people of Judah who were in Jerusalem, saying, ¹⁰ “Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria, ‘On what are you trusting, that you endure the siege in Jerusalem? ¹¹ Is not Hezekiah misleading you, that he may give you over to die by famine and by thirst, when he tells you, “The Lord our God will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria”? ¹² Has not this same Hezekiah taken away his high places and his altars and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, “Before one altar you shall worship, and on it you shall burn your sacrifices”? ¹³ Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of other lands? Were the gods of the nations of those

lands at all able to deliver their lands out of my hand? ¹⁴ Who among all the gods of those nations that my fathers devoted to destruction was able to deliver his people from my hand, that your God should be able to deliver you from my hand? ¹⁵ Now, therefore, do not let Hezekiah deceive you or mislead you in this fashion, and do not believe him, for no god of any nation or kingdom has been able to deliver his people from my hand or from the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you out of my hand!”

¹⁶ And his servants said still more against the Lord God and against his servant Hezekiah.

¹⁷ And he wrote letters to cast contempt on the Lord, the God of Israel, and to speak against him, saying, “Like the gods of the nations of the lands who have not delivered their people from my hands, so the God of Hezekiah will not deliver his people from my hand.” ¹⁸ And they shouted it with a loud voice in the language of Judah to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to frighten and terrify them, in order that they might take the city. ¹⁹ And they spoke of the God of Jerusalem as they spoke of the gods of the peoples of the earth, which are the work of men's hands.

²⁰ Then Hezekiah the king and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, prayed because of this and cried to heaven. ²¹ And the Lord sent an angel, who cut off all the mighty warriors and commanders and officers in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he came into the house of his god, some of his own sons struck him down there with the sword. ²² So the Lord saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand of all his enemies, and he provided for them on every side. ²³ And many brought gifts to the Lord to Jerusalem and precious things to Hezekiah king of Judah, so that he was exalted in the sight of all nations from that time onward.

PSALM 119

P: ¹ Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!

**C: ² Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,**

P: ³ who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways!

**C: ⁴ You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.**

P: ⁵ Oh that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!

**C: ⁶ Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.**

**P: ⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous rules.**

**C: ⁸ I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me!**

THE EPISTLE: Ephesians 6:10-17

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 4:46-54 (Stand)

⁴⁶ So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. ⁴⁸ So Jesus said to him, **“Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.”** ⁴⁹ The official said to him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, **“Go; your son will live.”** The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. ⁵¹ As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. ⁵² So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.” ⁵³ The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, **“Your son will live.”** And he himself believed, and all his household. ⁵⁴ This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

C: ♪ God be praised for His glad tidings.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life † everlasting.

♪ Amen.

SERMON HYMN: 517 vv. 1-5 “If God Himself Be for Me”

1 If God Himself be for me,
I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me
My foes confounded fly.
If Christ, the Head, befriend me
If God be my support
The mischief they intend me
Shall quickly come to naught.

2 This I believe, yea, rather,
In this I make my boast,
That God is my dear Father,
The Friend who loves me most;
And that, whate'er betide me,
My Savior is at hand
Through stormy seas to guide me
And bring me safe to land.

3 I build on this foundation:
That Jesus and His blood
Alone are my salvation,
The true eternal good.

Without Him all that pleases
Is valueless on earth;
The gifts bestowed by Jesus
Alone my love are worth.

4 My Jesus is my Splendor,
My soul's bright beaming Sun;
Were He not my Defender
Before God's awful throne,
I never should find favor
And mercy in His sight,
But be destroyed forever
As darkness by the light.

5 He canceled my offenses,
And saved my soul from death;
'Tis He who ever cleanses
Me from my sins through faith.
In Him I can be cheerful,
Bold, and undaunted aye.
In Him I am not fearful
Of God's great Judgment Day.

THE SERMON “God Rescues Man from the Enemy” 2 Chronicles 32:20-23

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (*Stand*)

P: Everlasting and merciful God, we beseech You in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

C: To have mercy upon us and to hear our prayer.

P: Look in mercy upon Your Church. Protect it and sanctify it by Your truth. May Your Word

be taught in its purity and Your Sacraments be rightly administered. Grant unto Your Church faithful pastors who shall declare Your truth with power and shall live according to Your will. Send forth laborers into Your harvest and open the door of faith unto all unbelievers and unto the people of Israel. In mercy remember the enemies of Your Church and grant to them repentance unto life.

C: O God, in the multitude of Your mercy, hear us in the truth of Your salvation.

P: Let Your protecting hand be over our country and over all who travel. Prosper what is good among us and bring to naught every evil counsel and purpose. Protect and bless Your servants, the President of the United States, the Governor of this state, our judges and magistrates and all in authority. Fit them for their high calling by the gift of Your Spirit of wisdom and fear, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

C: Hear, O Lord, and have mercy! Lord be our helper.

P: According to Your promise, O God, be the defender of the widow and the father of the orphan. Relieve and comfort the sick and the sorrowful. Graciously help those who are assaulted by the devil and who are in peril of death. Be the strength of those who are suffering for the sake of Christ's holy name. Grant that we may live together in peace and prosperity. Bestow upon us good and seasonable weather; and bless us with upright Christian counsel in all that we undertake.

C: O Lord, be with all in trouble. Hear their prayers to the honor of Your Name.

P: We especially commend to Your care and keeping this Your congregation which You have bought with a great price. Keep from us all offenses and bind us together in the unity of Your holy love. Grant that the little ones who are baptized in Your name may be brought up in Your fear. At Your table give to those who there commune with You peace and life everlasting.

C: Let all rejoice who trust in You; let them shout for joy because You defend them.

P: In Your mercy look upon In Christ's name we pray.

C: Lord, in Your mercy hear our prayer.

P: Be merciful, O God, to all, according to Your great love in Christ Jesus, our Lord. When our final hour shall come, grant us a blessed departure from this world, and on the last day, a resurrection to Your glory.

C: Amen. Grant us Your peace, O Lord!

C: 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.

THE APOSTOLIC BENEDICTION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit † be with you all.

THE OFFERING

HYMN: 517 vv. 11-14 “If God Himself Be for Me” (*Sit*)

11 Who clings with resolution
To Him whom Satan hates
Must look for persecution
Which never here abates;
Reproaches, griefs and losses
Rain fast upon his head,
A thousand plagues and crosses
Become his daily bread.

12 All this I am prepared for,
Yet am I not afraid;
By Thee shall all be cared for,
To whom my vows were paid.
Though life and limb it cost me,
And all the earthly store
Which once so much engrossed me,
I love Thee all the more.

13 Not fire, nor sword, not thunder,
Shall sever me from Thee;
Though earth be rent asunder,
Thou'rt mine eternally.
Not hunger, thirst, nor danger,
Not pain, or pinching want,
Nor mighty princes' anger
My fearless soul shall daunt.

14 No angel, and no gladness,
No throne, no pomp, nor show,
No love, no hate, no sadness,
No pain, no depth of woe,
No scheme of man's contrivance,
Though it be great or small,
Shall draw me from Thy guidance
Nor one of these, nor all!

THE COLLECT (*Stand*)

P: Lord God, our heavenly Father, we thank You, that of Your great mercy You have given us Your holy and blessed Word, by which You also among us gather Your Christian Church. We humbly entreat You, grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we receive Your Word with thankful hearts, and live according to it, and ever increase in Christian faith, and hope, and love, and at last obtain eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious

unto you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and give † you peace.

C: ♪ Amen, amen, amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 586 vv. 1-2 “How Blest Are They Who Hear” (*Sit*)

1 How blest are they who hear God's Word,
And keep and heed what they have heard!
They daily grow in wisdom.
Their light shines brighter day by day,
And while they tread life's weary way,
They have the oil of gladness
To soothe their pain and sadness.

2 God's Word a treasure is to me,
Through sorrow's night my sun shall be,
The shield of faith in battle.
The Father's hand hath written there
My title as His child and heir,
"The kingdom's thine forever."
That promise faileth never.

TRINITY 16

Elijah and Elisha are the two of the last major prophets of an era that began with Moses. The other great prophet in this period of Israelite history would be Samuel. These prophets not only spoke the oracles of God to His people, but were looked upon by the people as having been blessed with wisdom and knowledge from God enabling them to stand out as exceptional leaders of the people and were able through the power of God to perform miracles. The later prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, and others) may have had many of the same qualities and abilities, but they would be known more as literary prophets, whose words more than actions were recorded for our learning. The prophet Malachi in the closing words of the Old Testament prophesied that Elijah would return immediately before the coming of “that great and dreadful day” of the Messiah. Jesus would then identify John the Baptist as this “Elijah” who was prophesied to come to prepare His way by the turning hearts back to God and the salvation promised long ago..

Sermon Thoughts

1) What does the law in this text teach us ourselves?

2) How does the Gospel in this text comfort us?

3) How may I personally apply this text to my life today?

CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS for September 16, 2026

Voters meeting with potluck after service

Tuesday 10:30 - 2:00 PM: **Little Lights Homeschool Collective**

Wednesday 9:30 AM: **Women's Bible Study - On Pause**

7:00 PM: **Women's Bible Study - On Pause**

7:00 PM: **Men's Bible Study - Philippians 4**

Sunday 9:00 AM: **Sunday School & Bible Study - Discussion on the Call to Mt. Olive**

10:30 AM: **Divine Service with Communion**