

Pastor's Bible Study

September 23, 2026 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

LSB 655 – Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in Your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je-sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, Send peace and
by de-ceit or sword Would wrest the king-dom from Your
Lord of lords a-lone; De-fend Your ho-ly Church that
u-ni-ty on earth; Sup-port us in our fi-nal
Son And bring to naught all He has done.
we May sing Your praise e-ter-nal-ly.
strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text and tune: Public domain

Read Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32:

1. What does God's quoting of His people's proverb tell you about Him?
2. What does this proverb imply about how the people of Ezekiel's time understood God?
3. In verse 4, God lays claim to all souls, what does that say about Him?
4. Also in verse 4, God makes it clear the soul who sins shall die, what does this tell us about God and His relationship to people?
5. Why does God rebuke His people's misunderstanding of Him?

Read Matthew 21:23-32:

1. What happened before this reading?
2. Authority is a key idea in verse 23-27, what connections to authority do you see?
3. Why does Jesus keep bringing up John in this passage?
4. How does the parable apply to Jesus' listeners then? Today?

Read Philippians 2:1-18:

1. What is the mind of Christ that Paul is mentioning?
2. How does Christ demonstrate this mindset?
3. What is God's pleasure according to Paul?

4. What purpose does Paul give for the believer?

Devotional Thought:

Paul's exhortation flows from the previous section revealing the significance of Jesus' life and sacrifice. Like Paul, our labor would be meaningless and of no use to others if we lived crookedly and perversely as the world around us lives. But God is at work in us, moving us to hold fast to His Word of life, by which He extends His image and kingdom to others.

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, please work in us to will and to do Your good pleasure, that we may be blameless in this crooked generation and blameless in the day of Your return. Amen.