

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

Prelude

Prélude
from *Suite Bergamasque*

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

Greeting and Announcements

Opening Sentences

*Doxology - all to sing

No. 592

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Prayer of Praise

*Call to Worship

Leader: In this place,

People: friends and strangers meet, the broken are mended, and the weary welcomed.

Leader: In this moment,

People: the ordinary becomes miraculous, and life is on pause. This is God's time.

Leader: In this sanctuary,

People: God's goodness is revealed. Our doors open with kindness.

Our lives join together.

Leader: Let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn ["Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"](#)

*Call to Confession

Leader: God has chosen us, but we frequently fail to choose God's will for our lives. Let us go before God, seeking forgiveness and peace.

*Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of justice and truth, you ask us to give to you the things that are yours. If we are honest, we know we hold so much back. We have promised you our obedience, but we often fulfill our own desires first. We have promised you our worship, but we give our attention to idols

instead. We have promised to do your work in the world, but we put it last on the list of priorities. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Increase our generosity that we might give freely, grateful for all of the gifts you have given us.

A Time of Silent Prayer

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: The gospel remains true: God has chosen us, forgives us, and walks beside us, helping us become imitators of Christ. This is good news!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

*Response of Praise-all to sing

"Gloria Patri"

No. 579

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

*We Share God's Peace

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

(You are invited to share God's peace as you greet those around you.)

Special Music

In The Garden

Mark Hayes, arr.
(born 1953)

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

[Exodus 33:12-23 \(NRSV\)](#)

Hymn (seated)

"Jesus Loves Me"

No. 304

*Jesus loves me! This I know. For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Children's Message

(Children grades K-6 may be dismissed to Sunday School)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

[Matthew 22:15-22 \(NRSV\)](#)

Sermon

“What He Said”

The Rev. M. Rex Espiritu

in a cleft

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People...The Lord's Prayer ('debts' and debtors')

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn

[“We Give Thee but Thine Own”](#)

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Solace
A Mexican Serenade

Scott Joplin
(1868-1917)

(We invite you to remain seated through the Postlude.)

*Indicates that those who are able may stand.

Lectionary readings for October 25, 2026

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46