

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2026

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

Prelude

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: When the path leads nowhere, we become disoriented, and skies darken,

People: how do we find peace, O God?

Leader: When farewells are too many, tears won't stop, and strength is gone,

People: how do we rest, O God?

Leader: When hope is hard, love is lost, and light is dim,

People: you give us one more breath, O God.

Leader: Let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn ["O Worship the King, All Glorious Above"](#)

*Call to Confession

Leader: From ancient times to now, God's people have turned away. We are no different: we let fear take hold of us and try to go our own way. Let us be honest about how we have failed to follow God.

*Prayer of Confession (in unison)

True God from True God, we have not built a golden calf, but we have worshiped idols. We have put our trust in what we build with our own hands. We find security in what we can hoard instead of trusting your provision. We listen to lies that spread hatred and division instead of the radical truth of your word. Forgive us. Melt down our idols until we see only you and fix our sight on your way alone.

A Time of Silent Prayer

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: God shows us a different way—a way of truth, honor, justice, purity, and excellence. This path is open to us all upon freely receiving God's forgiveness. 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

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

[Exodus 32:1-14 \(NRSV\)](#)

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-8 may be dismissed to Sunday School)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

[Matthew 22:1-14 \(NRSV\)](#)

Sermon

"The Wedding Banquet"
from the mountain

The Rev. M. Rex Espiritu

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn ["Rejoice, the Lord Is King"](#)

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

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

*Indicates that those who are able may stand.

Lectionary readings for October 18, 2026

Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22