

22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2026

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

Prelude *Geschichten aus dem Wienerwald* Johann Strauss Jr.

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: God is our dwelling place:

People: God gathers us into community with each other to love and work, to support and heal.

Leader: God is our dwelling place:

People: God gathers us into community with all people to bring justice and hope, freedom and truth.

Leader: God is our dwelling place:

People; God gathers us into community with all creation to live in harmony, to grow new gardens.

Leader: Let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn** ["A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"](#)

***Call to Confession**

Leader: God watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. We have righteousness within us, but therein also lies wickedness. Therefore, let us confess.

***Prayer of Confession** (in unison)

God of love, your commandments are so simple: love God, love neighbor, love self. Yet we cannot always muster that love. Love for you seems too abstract and distant. Love for our neighbors seems too

impractical and draining. Love for ourselves seems too impossible and unimportant. But you are truly the God of love; if there is anyone who can help us love, it is you. Shower us with your love so we might have the greatest example, and help us learn from you.

A Time of Silent Prayer

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader: It is true: we are beloved of God. The God who loves us does not condemn us. We will live in the glory of God's love! 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 *Prelude No. 2* George Gershwin

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading [Deuteronomy 34:1-12 \(NRSV\)](#)

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

*“Dare to Ask”
the whole land*

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 [“Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!”](#)

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Minuet and Trio
from *Water Music Suite No. 1*

Handel

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

*Indicates that those who are able may stand.

Lectionary readings for November 1, 2026

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12