

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

Prelude

Intermezzo, Opus 50, No. 4
from *Six Pieces for Organ*

Arthur Foote
(1853-1937)

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: O taste and see:

People: God is good.

Leader: God has forgiven us and drawn us close, reconciling us through Jesus Christ,

People: who has lavished upon us the fullness of the blessed Holy Spirit.

Leader: With glad and grateful hearts,

People: praise the Lord!

Leader: Let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn

["In Christ There Is No East or West"](#)

*Call to Confession

Leader: We call to God, saying, "Have mercy on us!" We call to God, saying, "Lord, help us!" We call to God even in the midst of our sin, knowing that God is gracious and just.

*Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of all goodness, We do not want to face all that is in our own hearts. We want to focus on the good—on the love, the compassion, the care—and ignore the bad—the greed, the envy, the cruelty. But before you,

God, we must face it. Forgive all the ways we have let evil take hold in our hearts. Cleanse us. Help us face our own demons, and empower us to live a Christlike life.

A Time of Silent Prayer

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: We have been disobedient to God, but we have received mercy. The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Upon receiving the gift of forgiveness, we are blessed to share that gift with others. Let us live our lives as those transformed by the abundant mercy of God! This is the good news we share!

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

Indian Summer
An American Idyl (1919)

Victor Herbert
(1859-1924)

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

[\(NRSV\)](#)

[Psalm 133](#)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

[Matthew 15:21-28 \(NRSV\)](#)

Sermon

"Lord, help me"
together in unity

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 ["There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"](#)

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude	<i>Marche de Procession</i>	Alexandre Guilmant
	<i>Opus 41, No. 5</i>	(1837-1911)

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

*Indicates that those who are able may stand.

Lectionary readings for August 23, 2026

Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20