

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2025

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

Prelude

Chorale Prelude on Dundee C. Hubert H. Parry
From *Seven Chorale Preludes* (1912) (1848-1918)

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: I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating.

People: O sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things. God has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: I will rejoice and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard.

People: O sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things. God has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: No more shall there be an infant that lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime.

People: O sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things. God has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity; for they and their descendants shall be offspring blessed by the Lord. Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.

People: O sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things. God has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: Let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn

["O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"](#)

*Call to Confession

Leader: Before we call, God answers us. While we are still speaking, God hears us. Let us confess our sin to God, who even now is waiting to say, "I forgive you."

*Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Majestic Creator, we fail to believe we carry your image and we fail to behave as those who belong to you. Mighty Savior, we turn from your path of sacrificial love and we turn toward our personal preferences. Merciful Spirit, we forget your call to righteousness and we forget our need of you. In our sinfulness, triune God, we seek now your forgiveness, praying that you will relieve the burden of our regrets by the power of your patient love.

A Time of Silent Prayer

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: God is creating new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered. They shall not even cross God's mind. Be glad and rejoice forever in what God is creating; newness of life. We are reconciled to God and to one another. 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.)

CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Commitment of Pledges for 2026

*Prayer of Dedication

Special Music

Étude Mignonne, Opus 16, No. 1

Eduard Schütt
(1856-1933)

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

***Indicates that those who are able may stand.**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading [Isaiah 65:17-25](#) (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 [Luke 21:5-19 \(NRSV\)](#)

Sermon

“Opportunity to Testify”
Delight in People
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** “[Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life](#)”

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Now Thank We All Our God, Opus 65, No. 59* Sigfrid Karg-Elert
(1877-1933)

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

Lectionary readings for November 23, 2025

Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke 1:68:79 or Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43