

18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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: Listen, people of God!

People: Hear the wonders of our Creator!

Leader: God split the sea;

People: walls of water towered above.

Leader: God guided our ancestors in faith:

People: clouds by day, lightning by night.

Leader: God split open the rock;

People: water flowed like rivers.

Leader: God split open the heavens and met earth.

People; God meets us still.

Leader: Let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn**

["Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"](#)

***Call to Confession**

Leader: God does not take pleasure in our suffering or delight in our failures but bids us to turn back to God's way and find eternal life. Let us make our confession.

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

Holy God, we confess to you: We are not of the same mind. We do not share the same love. We act in selfish ambition and do not regard others as better than ourselves. We have not looked to the interests of others

instead of ourselves. We do not embrace the humility of Jesus Christ. Forgive us. Continue to be at work in us, that we might serve each other as you served us, and reflect your glory in this world.

A Time of Silent Prayer

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader: When we lift up our souls to God, God does not put us to shame. God forgives us, leads us in the truth, and leads us in what is right. 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

Minute for Mission

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

[Exodus 17:1-7 \(NRSV\)](#)

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 21:23-32 \(NRSV\)](#)

Sermon *“By What Authority”* The Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
 Lord Among Us

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn [“Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord”](#)

*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 4, 2026

Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46