24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

Prelude *Abide with Me* William Monk/arr. Phillip Keveren

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: The Lord is coming. Whom will you serve?
People: As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.
Leader: What has God done for you?
People: Wondrous works. Unforgettable deeds. Strength in the wilderness; paths of liberation!
Leader: Say more.
People: We'll never stop telling our story. The next generation will hear it. Children not yet born will know it.
Leader: Hope in God, whose story will never end.
People: Forever we will praise our faithful helper and deliverer!
Leader: Let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn** "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

***Call to Confession**
Leader: Our God is a God of glorious deeds, of wondrous works. Our hope is in God. But we do not always keep God's commandments. Let us confess our sins before our merciful and mighty God.

***Prayer of Confession** (in unison)
Everlasting God, we say we want to see you, we say we want to know you, we say we want to serve you, but we also do not want to put in the work. We do not want to prepare for your coming by working for your kin-dom on this earth. We do not keep alert for signs of you among us, so we schedule you in for an hour or so on Sundays. Forgive us. Inspire us to put our faith to action. Surprise us with your presence so we might learn to always be ready for you to arrive.
A Time of Silent Prayer

***Assurance of Forgiveness**
Leader: All who seek God will rejoice and be glad. We proclaim that God is great because of this. 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 *For the Beauty of the Earth* Conrad Kocher/arr. Phillip Keveren

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 (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-6 may be dismissed to Sunday School)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading Matthew 25:1-13 (NRSV)

Sermon ***"Meet the Bridegroom"*** The Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
incline your hearts

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***Sending Hymn** "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude *Allegretto* from *Sonata in C, K. 330* W.A. Mozart

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

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

Lectionary readings for November 15, 2026

Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30