

17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

Prelude

First Arabesque

Claude Debussy

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 wilderness is still.

People: The hungry are left empty.

Leader: The cracked earth crumbles.

People: The thirsty cry out.

Leader: The Promise Keeper pulls them close.

People: God, hear us now.

Leader: Water flows.

People: The Holy One listens.

Leader: A feast from heaven.

People: The Holy One provides.

Leader: Let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn

["Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"](#)

*Call to Confession

Leader: We try to live our lives in a manner worthy of Christ. We try to stand firm in God's spirit, but our human self-interest gets the better of us. In humility and faith, let us confess.

*Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of generosity, we find ourselves bitter when faced with your abundant grace. We believe ourselves more deserving than others. We nurse our anger and resentment at those you forgive, instead of

rejoicing in the abundant love you show. Forgive us when we wish your grace was scarce. Forgive the double standards we hold. Help us to know that we are all in need of your grace, and help us rejoice as we all gratefully receive your mercy.

A Time of Silent Prayer

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: The grace of God is boundless, poured out freely for all of us. We will receive this gift of forgiveness, and trust God to transform our lives! 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

Down a Country Lane

Aaron Copland

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

[Exodus 16:2-15 \(NRSV\)](#)

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 20:1-16 \(NRSV\)](#)

Sermon

“For His Vineyard” The Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
bread from heaven

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn [“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”](#)

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Allegretto Vivace from Op. 31, No. 3* Beethoven

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

*Indicates that those who are able may stand.

Lectionary readings for September 27, 2026

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32