

14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

Prelude *Go Down, Moses* arr. Alex Zsolt

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 God of our ancestors calls us to worship.

People: Praise the Lord!

Leader: Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

People: We sing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recount all of God's wonderful deeds.

Leader: Let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn ["The God of Abraham Praise"](#)

*Call to Confession

Leader: Jesus Christ overcame evil with good so that all people might be saved from sin. Sometimes it sounds too hard: deny ourselves, take up our crosses, lose our lives? Let us then confess our need for grace, confident of God's forgiveness.

*Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of mercy, we confess that, like the disciples, we set our minds not on divine things but on human things. Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need. Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink from living as your followers. Doubting your loving plan, we become stumbling blocks in your creation. Forgive us, Savior, but we'd rather you do it for us. Forgive us, Christ, but we are overwhelmed with what you ask of us. We long to see you come in glory, but fear the road

we must take. Have mercy on our weakness. Be patient with our stumbling. Do not leave us behind, even when we are slow to follow, and lead us in your ways of peace. Forgive us that we may gain new life in you, for it is in Jesus' forgiving name we pray.

A Time of Silent Prayer

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Jesus took up his cross for our salvation. In return for our old life of sin, The Lord promises a new life of grace. Christ does not abandon us, but died for us, was raised for us, and loves us still. This is the good news that prevails!

All: In the life, death, and resurrection of 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 *Sonata quasi una fantasia: Adagio sostenuto* Beethoven

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading [Exodus 3:1-15 \(NRSV\)](#)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading [Matthew 16:21-28 \(NRSV\)](#)

Sermon *"Must Go Undergo"* The Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
keeping the flock

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn ["Lift High the Cross"](#)

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Allegro from Sonata in C, Hob. 35* Haydn

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

*Indicates that those who are able may stand.

Lectionary readings for September 6, 2026

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20