



**Sunday, October 5, 2025**  
**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

# ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

*During the Prelude, you are invited to meditate on the Psalm of the Day as you prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

## Welcome and Gathering Prayer

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

### Psalm of the Day – Psalm 71:1-8

- <sup>1</sup> In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.
- <sup>2</sup> In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me;  
turn your ear to me and save me.
- <sup>3</sup> Be my rock of refuge,  
to which I can always go;  
give the command to save me,  
for you are my rock and my fortress.
- <sup>4</sup> Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.
- <sup>5</sup> For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord,  
my confidence since my youth.
- <sup>6</sup> From birth I have relied on you;  
you brought me forth from my mother's womb.  
I will ever praise you.
- <sup>7</sup> I have become a sign to many;  
you are my strong refuge.
- <sup>8</sup> My mouth is filled with your praise,  
declaring your splendor all day long.

**Prelude** – Prelude in C Major BWV 567  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

### \*Call to Worship

Tessa Henne

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People: The Maker of heaven and earth.**

Leader: Praise the Lord.

**People: The Lord's name be praised!**

**\*Hymn of Praise** – #488 "The God of Abraham Praise"

### Prayer of Confession

Nathan Wannemacher

Leader: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

**People:** In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen**

### **God's Will for Our Lives – Matthew 22:34-40**

Leader: Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

**People: "All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."**

**\*Gloria Patri #579** "Glory Be to the Father"

## **RECEIVING THE WORD OF GOD**

**Song – "Your Word Is a Lamp"** by Dora Ann Purdy

Children's Choir

Christine Weeks, Director; Janet Deden, Piano

**Children's Message**

Nathan Wannemacher

**Old Testament Reading – Psalm 11** (p. 548)

Daria Müller

### **Meditation**

When I Think upon thy Goodness

Music by Franz Joseph Haydn

Randal Turner, Baritone

**New Testament Reading – Hebrews 4:14-16** (p. 1204)

Tessa Henne

**Sermon – "Our Above and Beside God"**

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

**\*Hymn of Response – #396** "O for a Closer Walk with God"

## **PROFESSING WHAT WE BELIEVE**

**\*The Apostles' Creed** (Ecumenical, p. 14)

## **GATHERING AT THE LORD'S TABLE**

### **Invitation**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

Leader: With joy we praise you, gracious God...

### **Words of Institution**

Leader: Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament saying:

**People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### **Prayer of Consecration**

Leader: Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit...

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray saying:

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **The Bread and the Cup**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

### **Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings**

Joël Duss, Elder for Communication  
& Membership Involvement

### **Offertory**

Only by Grace

Randal Turner, Baritone

Words & Music by Gerrit Gustafson

**\*Doxology #592 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

## **OFFERING OUR PRAYERS TO GOD**

### **Prayers of the People**

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

## **GOING WITH GOD'S MISSION AND BLESSING**

### **Welcoming of Visitors**

Joël Duss

### **Announcements**

**\*Hymn of Dedication – #361 "How Firm a Foundation"**

### **\*Sending and Benediction**

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

### **Postlude – Fantasy in G Major BWV 572**

Johann Sebastian Bach

Ruth Pfister, Organ

*Please remain quietly seated during the postlude. If you need to leave, please do so quietly.*

***\*Please stand if you are able.***

Today's bulletin cover features a stained-glass image of King David, the Old Testament writer of the Psalm we'll be exploring today in our worship service (Psalm 11). This stained glass is part of a window from the parish church of Our Lady and St. Joseph in Alcester, England. The window was made in 1910 in a Brussels glass studio by the craftsman Arthur Wybo.

