



Sunday, February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

During the Prelude, you are invited to meditate on the Psalm of the day as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Welcome and Gathering Prayer

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Prelude

Prelude in G Major BWV 550
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

Psalm of the Day -- Psalm 26:1-3

Vindicate me, Lord,
for I have led a blameless life;
I have trusted in the Lord
and have not faltered.
Test me, Lord, and try me,
examine my heart and my mind;
for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love
and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.

*Call to Worship -- Psalm 118:24

Nicholas Edmonds

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made;
People: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

*Hymn of Praise #263 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Prayer of Confession

"O Divine Redeemer!"
Words and Music by Charles Gounod

Cheyne Davidson, Solo
Gordon Schultz, Piano

Ah! Turn me not away
Receive me tho' unworthy;
Hear Thou my cry
Behold, Lord, my distress!
Answer me from thy throne
Haste Thee, Lord to mine aid
Thy pity shew in my deep anguish!
Let not the sword of vengeance smite me
Though righteous thine anger
O Lord! Shield me in danger, O regard me!
On Thee, Lord, alone will I call
O Divine Redeemer!

I pray Thee, grant me pardon
And remember not, remember not my sins!
Forgive me, O Divine Redeemer!
Night gathers round my soul;
Fearful, I cry to Thee;
Come to mine aid, O Lord!
Haste Thee, Lord, haste to help me!
Hear my cry! Save me Lord in Thy mercy;
Come and save me O Lord
Save, in the day of retribution
From Death shield Thou me, O my God!
O Divine Redeemer, have mercy!
Help me, my Saviour!

Assurance of Pardon -- Psalm 103:8-12

Leader: The Lord is compassionate and gracious,

People: slow to anger, abounding in love.

Leader: He will not always accuse,

People: nor will he harbor his anger forever;

Leader: he does not treat us as our sins deserve

People: or repay us according to our iniquities.

Leader: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

People: so great is his love for those who fear him;

Leader: as far as the east is from the west,

People: so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

God's Gracious Will for Our Lives -- James 1:13-15

Leader: When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

People: but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

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

RECEIVING THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 139:23-24 (pp. 628-629)

Nicholas Edmonds

New Testament Reading

Matthew 4:1-11 (pp. 967-968)

Sermon

"Good Different: The Temptation of Jesus"

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***Hymn of Response** "Have Thine Own Way" (*insert*)

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

Tariq Dennison, Treasurer

Offertory

"Different"

Words and Music by Kyle Lee and Micah Tyler

Cheyne Davidson, Solo
Gordon Schultz, Piano

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

Prayers of the People

Tariq Dennison

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison in English or the language of your choice*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GOING WITH GOD'S MISSION AND BLESSING

Welcoming of Guests

Tariq Dennison

Announcements

***Hymn of Dedication** "Trust and Obey" (*insert*)

***Sending and Benediction**

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Postlude

Fugue in F Major BuxWV 157
Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

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

Today's bulletin cover features a photograph of a stained glass window (ca. 1170-1180) from the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

*Like much other medieval stained glass, this window has been displayed in a number of locations during its history. It may have originally been produced for the Romanesque Cathedral of Troyes, which was destroyed by fire in 1188, but it is also possible that it could have been from another building nearby - the collegiate church of Saint-Etienne. By the nineteenth century the window had been installed in the Lady Chapel of Troyes Cathedral, which had only been built in the thirteenth century. The window is likely to have been removed from the Cathedral during renovations (1849-66) when much of the glass was dispersed. Christ is shown being approached by the Devil, who holds a pile of four stones in his left hand. The panel illustrates the first temptation of Christ, after he had gone into the wilderness to fast after his baptism. The Devil said to him, 'If thou be the Son of God command that these stones be made bread' (Matthew 4: 3).
(<https://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O8576/temptation-in-the-wilderness-panel-unknown/>)*