



**Sunday, October 18, 2026**  
**Twenty-first Sunday**  
**after Pentecost**

## **Entering God's Presence**

*During the Prelude, you are invited to meditate on the Psalm of the Day.*

### **Welcome and Gathering Prayer**

Nathan Wannemacher

### **Psalm of the Day – Psalm 51:1-2**

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.

### **Prelude**

“Pièce en ré Majeur” no. 1 from L’Organiste  
César Franck (1822-1890)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

### **Introit**

“This is the Day”  
Music: Mark Patterson

IPC Singers  
Chandler Cudlipp, Director

### **\*Call to Worship**

Peter Chen

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the LORD!

**People: Let us serve the LORD with gladness!**

Leader: We enter his gates with thanksgiving,

**People: we enter his courts with praise!**

**The LORD is good, his steadfast love endures forever!**

### **\*Hymn of Praise – #478 “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”**

### **Prayer of Confession**

Nathan Wannemacher

Leader: Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.

**People: We humbly confess our sins and ask for your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (based on Psalm 51:10-12)**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Who is a God like you,  
who pardons sin and forgives the transgression  
of the remnant of his inheritance?

You do not stay angry forever  
but delight to show mercy.

**People: You will again have compassion on us;  
you will tread our sins underfoot  
and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.** (Micah 7:18-19)

## **God's Gracious Will for Our Lives**

Leader: Jesus says, "But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked."

**People: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."** (Luke 6:35-36)

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

## **Receiving God's Promises**

**Baptism** – Clemens Halim Leung

*Children are dismissed to their special program.*

## **Receiving the Word of God**

### **Choral Prayer of Illumination**

"Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet"

Music: Howard Nelson

**Old Testament Reading** – Zechariah 7:8-12 (p. 953)

Peter Chen

**New Testament Reading** – Matthew 5:7 (p. 968)

**Sermon** – "Kingdom Flourishing: Blessed are the Merciful"

Nathan Wannemacher

## **Responding to God's Word**

**\*Hymn of Response** – #298 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

**Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings**

Suresh Theodore, Elder for Outreach  
& Missions

## Offertory

"Bless the Lord, My Soul" (Taizé)

Music: Jacques Berthier

IPC Singers

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

## Prayers of the People

Suresh Theodore

**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 Visitors

Suresh Theodore

### Announcements

**\*Hymn of Dedication** – "God of Mercy, God of Grace" (*insert*)

### \*Sending and Pastoral Benediction

Nathan Wannemacher

### Choral Benediction

Amen – Danish

### Postlude

Fugue in G Major BWV 541

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

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

---

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

*Today's bulletin cover is the oil painting "The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant" by Jan Sanders van Hemessen (1500-1556), located in the University of Michigan Museum of Art. According to the museum's website: "In this painting van Hemessen, one of the most successful artists of his day, dramatically portrays a biblical parable about mercy and hypocrisy. The scene of a tax collector's office was a common subject in Flemish art in the 16th century, but Van Hemessen has added the narrative elements of the parable to relate the importance of forgiveness."*

*<https://umma.umich.edu/objects/the-parable-of-the-unmerciful-servant-1959-1-108>*