IPC International Protestant Church Zurich



Sunday, November 8, 2026
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Entering God's Presence

Welcome and Gathering Prayer Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 18:25-30

To the faithful you show yourself faithful,
to the blameless you show yourself blameless,
to the pure you show yourself pure,
but to the devious you show yourself shrewd.
You save the humble
but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.
You, Lord, keep my lamp burning;
my God turns my darkness into light.
With your help I can advance against a troop;
with my God I can scale a wall.
As for God, his way is perfect:
The Lord's word is flawless;
he shields all who take refuge in him.

Prelude

Prelude in A Major BWV 536 Ruth Pfister, Organ
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Introit

"Come, Let Us Worship the Lord" IPC Choir
Music: Mark Patterson Chandler Cudlipp, Director

***Call to Worship** Spencer Bliven

Leader: Praise the Lord.
People: The Lord's name be praised!
Leader: O magnify the LORD with me.
People: Let us exalt God's name together.

***Hymn of Praise** – "Open the Eyes of My Heart" (*see insert*)

Prayer of Confession Nathan Wannemacher

Leader: Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and ask 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.
People: Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.
Leader: In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.
People: Create in us a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us.
Leader: Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from us.
People: Restore to us the joy of your salvation and grant us a willing spirit, to sustain us.

Assurance of Pardon – Titus 3:3-7

Leader: At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

People: But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

Leader: He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

People: so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

God's Gracious Will for Our Lives – James 1:26-27

Leader: Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this:

People: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

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

Song

"It Is Good to Give Thanks" — Children's Choir
Michael Bedford, based on Psalm 92:1-3 — Christine Weeks, Director
Gordon Schultz, Piano

<u>Receiving God's Promises</u>

Baptism – Joana Khanya Machado

<u>Receiving the Word of God</u>

Choral Prayer of Illumination

Lord, Be Thy Word My Rule
Music: Henry Lawes

Old Testament Reading – Psalm 24:1-6 (p. 555) — Spencer Bliven

New Testament Readings – Matthew 5:8 (p. 968); Philippians 1:3-11 (p. 1178)

Sermon

"Kingdom Flourishing: Blessed Are the Pure in Heart" — Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Responding to God's Word

***Hymn of Response** – #372 "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings Tariq Dennison, Treasurer

Offertory
Finale from Sonata op. 65 no. 6 in D minor Ruth Pfister, Organ
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

***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 Visitors Tariq Dennison

Announcements

***Hymn of Dedication** – #145 "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

***Sending and Pastoral Benediction** Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Choral Benediction
"May the Road Rise to Meet You"
Music: Jody Lindh

Postlude
"Tonstück" op. 22 no. 1 in F Major Moderato Ruth Pfister, Organ
Niels Wilhelm Gade (1817-1890)

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 features a page from a medieval illuminated manuscript that contains Jesus' words from Matthew 15:20. The robed figure on the left is Matthew, the gospel writer, and the text on the right is the gospel text rendered in both Old English and Latin.