



indicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

(PSALM 26:1)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1-3** Before the Lord, David tests his innocence before men.
- v. 4-5** David demonstrates his noble life.
- v. 6-8** David attests to his faithfulness in piety.
- v. 9-10** David prays for deliverance.
- v. 11-12** David promises to remain faithful.

AT A GLANCE

IN A WORD *Vindicate me* — literally “judge me” in Hebrew.

DIG DEEPER Psalm 26 connects the ideas of virtuous living and liturgical participation.

THIS SOUNDS FAMILIAR Hezekiah may be quoting this psalm as he approaches death (2 KINGS 20:3).



CHRIST IS HERE

To confess that we walk in the Lord’s faithfulness (v.3) is to confess that the only way we can keep God’s steadfast love before our eyes is by the faithfulness of Christ.



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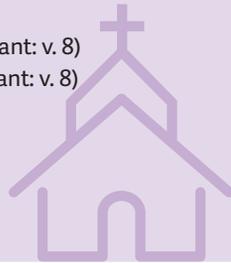


This psalm opens with an appeal for God to “vindicate”— the same word might also be read as “judge.” David is seeking the Lord’s acquittal and help. He asks for God’s judgment — that is, for God’s justice to be carried out — because he has walked in integrity: not because of his own strength, but because God’s steadfast love is always before his eyes. David avoids the council of wicked and bloodthirsty men. He recognizes this too as a result of God’s gracious disposition toward him. While David awaits the Lord’s justice and deliverance, he vows to flee injustice and proclaim the Lord’s truth. He tells of the Lord’s deeds, how His righteousness arises for His people. Where does the Christian find justice in a world of injustice? We find it in the Lord’s house, where the glory of Christ’s saving cross is proclaimed. When we are judged righteous on account of Christ’s sacrifice, then we can pursue what is right and flee from what is wicked. We can also delight to stand together with fellow Christians who are unafraid to test their works and receive judgment from the Lord’s Word — whether correction from His commandments or vindication from His merciful love.

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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 3a
In the Daily Office: Sundays at Midday (Prime)
At the Divine Service: Introit antiphon and Gradual for Anniversary of a Congregation (v. 8)
One-Year:
 Psalm for Trinity 8 (ant: v. 12)
Three-Year:
 Introit for Proper 16B (ant: v. 8)
 Psalm for Proper 17A (ant: v. 8)



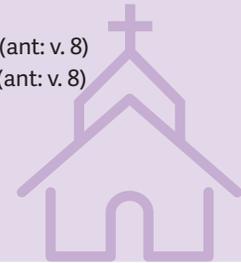
SPIRITUAL CARE

- During worship.
- Before ordination or installation.
- For ministers.
- To resist temptation.
- To resist depression and doubt.
- For resolve to do better.



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PSALM PRAYER

PSALM

26

Redeem us, O Lord, and have mercy on us, that our voices may praise You in the Church, and our lips may bless You among the people. Purge our hearts, test our minds by Your love, turn us away from worldly pleasures, and stop the influx of evil thoughts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

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