

"His name," to do healings. Jesus launched off into a complete teaching on sin and why you would want to cut off the offending part of your body if that would keep you from falling into sin. (It won't. It isn't your hand that causes you to sin, it is your hard heart.) Jesus went on to make the points about how something as simple as cold water can be enough to earn an unbeliever notice as having done a good thing. The lesson is wrapped up in the presentation of keeping ourselves from being petty because pettiness is simply an irritation (like sand in a sandwich) instead of a blessing (like salt to make the food taste better.) It is interesting that Jesus was having to continuously teach that others were worthy of the kingdom of God.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ O Lord God, we praise You for being ever faithful. You have not failed in one Word of all Your exceedingly great and precious promises. We thank You for the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ Your Son, and for all the promised grace we have received through Him. In the brightness of His glory we have received knowledge of Your glory. In the truth, goodness, and tenderness embodied in Him we have learned Your will. In His obedience unto death on the cross we have been granted cleansing pardon for all our sins. In His Resurrection we have the promise of life everlasting. In His Ascension to the right hand of majesty we have the assurance of His intercession for our every necessity.

Preserve Your church, dear God, from false or faithless teachers, and keep her obedient and steadfast in all that You have made known to us in the Holy Scriptures. Give us the refreshing of Your Spirit, that in fellowship with Jesus Christ we may proclaim Your truth with living power, preach Your Gospel in all the world, and minister in love to the needs of all people.

Give us peace and tranquility, so we may live without fear. Enlighten us by the light of Your Love, and preserve us from oppression, wrong and cruelty.

Support our own land in righteousness and overthrow all wickedness. As there is no strength in material prosperity, preserve us from the decay of moral corruption, and raise up men and women of holy courage and conscience to warn and admonish us. Protect us against every peril from within and without, and give us Your blessing.

Dwell in our homes, O Lord, and let all our families trust in You so that no trial or adversity may enter therein. Be the strength of the sick and the weary, and visit the tears of the sick, troubled and sorrowful with Your divine comfort.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)
All this we are bold to pray in the name of Jesus Christ.

© Amen.

PROPER TWENTY-ONE

Chant Tone



XI C: Ionian

Introit

Your name, O Lord, endures for — ever,*
Your renown, O Lord, throughout
all — ages.

Praise the Lord! Praise the name | of the
Lord,*

give praise, O servants | of the Lord,
who stand in the house | of the Lord,*
in the courts of the house | of our
God!

Praise the Lord, for the | Lord is good;*
sing to His name, for it is — pleasant!

Your name, O Lord, endures for — ever,*
your renown, O Lord, throughout
all — ages.

For the Lord will vindicate His — people*
and have compassion on His
— servants.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy — Spirit;
as it was in the be — ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

Your name, O Lord, endures for — ever,*
Your renown, O Lord, throughout
all — ages.

(Antiphon, Psalm 135:13;
Psalm 135:1-3, 13-14)

Collect of the Day

Everlasting Father, source of every blessing, mercifully direct and govern us by Your Holy Spirit that we may complete the works You have prepared for us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

For He will command His angels con | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.

Bless the Lord, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless His | holy name!

(Psalm 91:11, 103:1)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Lord God, heavenly Father, to You we lift up our souls, in You we put our trust. We are mindful of Your mercies; throughout our lives You have shown us Your steadfast love. You have provided for our eternal salvation by sending us Your Son Jesus Christ. For these countless gifts of Your love and mercy, accept our adoration, praise, and thanksgiving. Empower us by Your Holy Spirit to show true love and empathy. Give us the spirit of Christ, who humbled Himself and became obedient to death for our sake. Give us the will and the discipline to fulfill our promises. In the name of He Who is our salvation. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

WHEN I AM WORKING I WEAR MY CLERGY GARB. It is interesting that as people pass they tend to clean-up-their-act. Rough words leave their vocabulary, the tone of the conversation changes, they show respect. I wouldn't know if they are showing respect for what they perceive as my dedication to the Lord, or if they are in fear of what God might do to them concerning their behavior. Any time someone treats us differently because we are Christians, they show that they notice. Any time they treat us better, they show that they have respect for the name of the One we represent. Jesus said if someone attempts to assist us in our Christianity—even to the smallest degree of giving us a cup of water—that person is not far from God's blessing. We thank everyone for coming out to worship today. It is not always an easy thing to hear the voice of Jesus calling and respond with willing feet.

THEME OF THE DAY:

What Is Right

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 135:13;) Psalm 135:1-3, 13-14

Psalm 135 is actually the historic Psalm for this day. Written by David it is another of his "Hallelujah," Psalms. We know that because the title is, "Praise the Lord." We praise God because of Who He is. He shows us what is right by working for us and keeping us from doing wrong.

COLLECT

With the help of the Holy Spirit we are able to do the right things which we come to understand as they are presented to us in the Commandments.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

The journey to the promised land was underway. Moses' patience with the Israelites' complaining and wailing was wearing thin. In dealing with the people, Moses gave us a model of humility and the proper place of humility in our relationship with God and one another. God answered Moses in his prayer with the granting of the 70 men to serve with him. God took from Moses and gave to the men yet it didn't diminish the stature of Moses to have help. It is interesting to note that Joshua didn't think it was right that the two men who stayed in camp also received the Spirit to prophesy. Moses recognized their service which was to God and not to him.

GRADUAL—Psalm 91:11, 103:1

Psalm 91 (written by David,) encourages us to take God as our keeper, our ever present help in time of distress. Psalm 103 (also David) is a wonderful song of praise.

EPISTLE LESSON—James 5:1-20

We finish our month in the book of James by reading the entirety of Chapter Five. Christians live surrounded by a permissive society. The people of the world are encouraged to do what feels good. In his letter, James reminded us that God has poured out on us many blessings. Every good and perfect gift is from above. The Lord has promised those who persevere a crown of life. James urged us to align ourselves with God and submit to His authority. We are to repent of our sin and humble ourselves before God. We are to only do things that build up others, we are to do good things not for any reward from men but for the wonder of the knowledge of God. Some think that Paul and James were at odds with each other. No, they say the same thing from a different perspective. Paul was talking to new Christians, while James was talking to the mature.

GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 9:38-50

The Twelve came to Jesus for assistance and understanding in a state of jealousy. Their request is simple, stop the non-disciples from using