

misunderstanding on the part of the disciples. The great buildings (on which the nation centered its desires, would in fact be thrown down. The desire of safety in God always remains through the work of Jesus. Then they asked when the end of the world would occur. Jesus answered their immediate question even though the answer centered on His death. All of these words were spoken to the Apostles and yet they come down to us today. Christians are still persecuted for the name of Jesus. God has already won the war, now we are simply waiting for the fulfillment of the birth of the saved. The Gospel must first be preached to all nations before the end. As all nations include those who have not yet been born, we continue to wait for all to be fulfilled.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ O Almighty God and heavenly Father, You are Holy and righteous. Your glory fills the sky, and Your power holds the universe together. Your mercy is from everlasting to everlasting and Your truth endures throughout all generations. Be with Your people at all times and in all places Lord and hear us now as we bring our petitions and give voice to our intercession.

We thank You for all Your mercy. Your kindness is new each day. We praise You for the light of Your Word, by which You have illuminated our darkness. We glorify You for all the benefits You continue to give us in this life. We most heartily thank You for the gift of the sacrifice of Your Son Jesus Christ, who took on the form of our servant, humbling Himself as a man, being obedient to death (the death on the cross) in order that we would receive release from the punishment of our sin. Being thus absolved, we have the assurance of life everlasting with the certainty of the resurrection of our bodies on the last day an assurance we possess as citizens of Heaven.

Deliver us from the tribulations of this world with its false christs and false prophets, its heresies and divisions, its lies and deceit, its wars and oppression, its fighting and calamities, its bloodshed and pain. Grant that we would hide from all these in the body of Christ.

We ask You to look in mercy on the sick and any who are stricken in body, mind, or spirit. Set Your presence for all those for whom we pray, heal them according to Your Love and their need, and if it be Your will that they must continue with their "thorns" give them the patience to endure and the peace to carry on.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

Forgive us our sins for the sake of Christ, and give us all understanding that our joy and our expectation can never fade away. All this, we pray, in the name of Jesus.

© Amen.

PROPER TWENTY-EIGHT

Chant Tone



Introit

The one who endures | to the end*
will — be saved.

Let Mount Zion — be glad!*

Let the daughters of Judah rejoice
because of your — judgments!
Walk about Zion, go around her,
number her — towers,*
consider well her ramparts, go
through her | citadels,

that you may tell the next generation that
this is God, our God forever and — ever.*
He will guide us for — ever.

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.

The one who endures | to the end*
will — be saved.

(Antiphon, Mark 13:13b;
Psalm 48:11-14)

Collect of the Day

O Lord, by Your bountiful goodness release us from the bonds of our sins, which by reason of our weakness we have brought upon ourselves, that we may stand firm until the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu — lation.*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.
Blessèd are those whose strength is — in You,*
in whose heart are the highways to — Zion.

(Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: O merciful Father, You are a refuge for us in the time of trouble. As long as You are before us, we shall not be moved. Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice because in You we have security. In Your presence is the fullness of joy and in Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Your prophets of old and Your Son have warned us of troubles coming into the world. Many of these prophecies have already been fulfilled. Keep us in Your grace that we may be ready in the hour of the end. Prepare our church to meet with courage the days ahead, and send out the Gospel that all may know Jesus as Savior. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

IN NOVEMBER WE ENTER THE LAST SUNDAYS OF THE CHURCH YEAR. These days remind us of the end of the world, the time of the resurrection, when Christ will take us to live with Him eternally in the heavenly kingdom. We extend the right hand of friendship and love to all who have been called out by God to worship today. Worship is a time of wonder; a time of participation given to us as we live in God's earthly kingdom. We have been called out by God. He allows us to bring our worship before Him. We worship in these days of suffering before we are taken to the kingdom that cannot be shaken; the kingdom triumphant. "Be on guard" but "do not worry about what to say...say what you are given at the time." Even in this earthly kingdom God is always with us, always working for us, and always speaking through us to expand His kingdom.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Be On Guard

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm Mark 13:13b;) Psalm 48:11-14
The antiphon is covered by the Gospel Lesson. Psalm 48 was historically used on the 20th Sunday after Trinity. It dropped out in the first three year cycle, now it is back. This is a victory Psalm of the sons of Korah, written for worship (in that way we link to the Gradual.) Matthew Henry titled this section, "God's Care of His Church."

COLLECT

Our Collect is in the theme of forgiveness and deliverance. We pray to be absolved of even the sins we willfully committed because in the end we are asking to be delivered to eternal life.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Daniel 12:1-3

"Everyone whose name is found written in the book will be delivered." This is often misunderstood to be a physical book in which everyone's sins are written. The book is Jesus. Our name is written in Jesus. Daniel gave us a prophecy of the end times, which is also Jesus. He is the book of life. All who believe in Him have already awoken from the dead of sin to the brightness of the heavens. We are the stars that were promised to Abraham, who because of the righteousness of Jesus will shine forever. God won out against the evil of our flesh. we are redeemed in Jesus.

GRADUAL—Revelation 7:14b, Psalm 84:5

Those who have come out of the tribulation of this world are those who have been given faith. These people praise God for all they have been given. Revelation 7 tells us the number of the saved. As such it is of great encouragement. Psalm 84, by the Sons of Korah was written for worship. Our faith is the highway that has been laid out in our heart to take us to Heaven.

EPISTLE LESSON—Hebrews 10:11-25

The book of Hebrews was not read in worship by the historic church. We Lutherans put Hebrews 9 into our Passion Sunday readings. The first three year cycle added a good deal of Hebrews. The latest three year cycle has added more. This is the first use of this lesson. We have sliced this out of two sections. First we see Christ as the High Priest, Who, once for all, made the perfect sacrifice for sin. In the second we are reminded to remain confident in our faith, encouraging one another as we approach the end of the world, ("the Day drawing near.")

GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 13:1-13

For the last two Sundays of the church year, we concentrate on the Eschatological discourse of Mark chapter 13. We start with a really huge