

or some human created philosophy for salvation. There are only two ways to earn eternal life. Either you work at it, or you lean on the grace of God. If you believe you can earn life after this world with your works, then you need to ensure that you have done enough. You must fulfil all the rules. If you look to the water and Word of your Baptism, then you depend on God in the person of Jesus. He has perfectly fulfilled the law of God and has given you His death as payment for your sins. Additionally, people complain that the book of James concentrates too much on works. Why then, do you call Him Lord but don't do what He tells you? Depend on the Word of God to lead you through the peaceful life.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Ⓟ Blessèd are You, O Lord, and blessèd is Your Holy name. You forgive all our iniquities and heal our diseases. You redeem us from destruction and crown us with steadfast Love and mercy. You renew our youth like the eagle's by satisfying us with good things. You do not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. Accept, O Lord, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

We confess that our lives have not always been letters of recommendation. We have often been guilty of trying to keep the letter of the Law, while forgetting its spirit. As letters of Christ to a world lost in religious confusion, our testimony leaves much to be desired. We have often attempted to mend the flaws in our lives with patches of our own good works. For our failure to live up to Your expectations, forgive us, O Lord.

Visit us with Your Holy Spirit, and change our hearts to love You more completely. Help us rejoice in Your mercy as revealed to us by Your Son Jesus Christ. Grant us serenity in the midst of trials and afflictions. Give us power to be worthy examples of Your Love in a loveless world. Permeate the councils of nations and of our own nation with Your spirit of justice, mercy, and forgiveness.

Through Your beloved Son Jesus Christ, You have revealed Your Word in the flesh. Send us Your Holy Spirit that we may hear Him speaking to us in Your Word. Give us the courage to hold high the light of Your Word to those who sit in darkness, and bless it in the hearts of those who hear it.

Extend Your healing hand to the sick, help them know the power of Christ. Enter with Your presence for the lonely, help them feel the presence of Christ. Be the life of the bereaved, help them know the wonder of eternal life. Grant Your aid to the hungry, the homeless, the stranger, the oppressed, the orphan and the imprisoned.

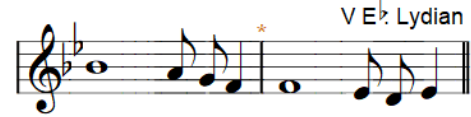
Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (Time of silent prayer.)

In the most Holy name of Jesus we pray.

© Amen.

EPIPHANY EIGHT

Chant Tone



<p>Introit Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart — before Him;* God is a re fuge for us.</p> <p>For God alone my soul waits in — silence.* From Him comes my sal — vation. He only is my rock and my salvation, my — fortress,* I shall not be greatly — shaken.</p>	<p>Once God has spoken; twice have I — heard this:* that power belongs to God, and that to You, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For You will render to a man,* according to His work.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart — before Him;* God is a re fuge for us.</p> <p><i>(Antiphon, Psalm 62:8; Psalm 62:1-2, 11-12)</i></p>
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Collect of the Day

O Lord mercifully hear our prayers and having set us free from the bonds of our sins deliver us from every evil; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Praise the Lord, all — nations!*
Extol Him, all — peoples!
For great is His | Love toward us,*
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for — ever.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due His name;*
bring an offering and come in | to His courts!

(Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Lord God, You know what I am, give me the courage to face the truth about myself. Keep me from pride and deceit. Do not permit me to make my life counterfeit or to hide behind some cheap pretense. In the crucified Christ let me see the depth of my sin, the grossness of my selfishness, and the judgment of death I deserve. In the risen Christ let me see the new life You have given me by Your grace, experiencing the deliverance from my old self and the freedom to live for You. With the mind of Christ ruling me, let me be honest with You, with myself, and with all people. In the every exalted name of Christ I pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

A FRIEND AND I GOT A WILD IDEA IN 1972. We decided that we were going to get to the roof of as many of the buildings in our downtown as we could. We made friends with building maintenance people, building owners, and building managers. A few of them chased us off, but more than a dozen took us to the roof. Our adventure wound down to an end the day that my friend admitted to me that he was having height anxieties. His fun of being on top of the world, was begin overwhelmed by a creeping fear of heights. Atheists have an anxiety that makes them fear the existence of God. The fun of faith is overwhelmed by the fear that they would never be acceptable to God. Far from being in fear or anxiety, they should simply join us as we live out the wonder of being made over by God into people He proclaims as worthy of eternal life.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Depend On God

It is highly unlikely that you are viewing this for Sunday worship, as the next time we will celebrate Epiphany Eight is 2052. It is interesting to note that the Propers for Epiphany Eight C have from their creation in about 1968 never been used in worship. I simply felt inclined to work through all of the possible Propers. If this is Epiphany Eight 2052, Then be happy, because the author is either 97 or has been in Heaven for a while.

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 62:8;) Psalm 62:1-2, 11-12

Psalm 62 was written by King David. This Psalm has as its theme our dependence on God. Unlike most of David's Psalms, this one does not appear to have been written for a particular purpose. Perhaps David was simply feeling grateful for the wonder of God, and wanted us to know that we can depend on Him.

COLLECT

This Collect is the historic prayer for Quinquagesima Sunday. (Epiphany Eight which corresponds to the "50 days before Easter"/Quinquagesima, was created in the first edition of a three year cycle of readings.) As such it is getting us prepared for our penitential time during Lent. We ask to be delivered from everything evil in our life.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Jeremiah 7:1-15

As the kingdom collapsed around them, the "Chosen People" were looking in every direction to find salvation. Jeremiah was sent with the message to return in faithfulness and depend on the One True God. It is always easy to depend on our own works or the claim of peace if we follow the plans of man. It is easy to depend on our material goods to ensure an easy future.

GRADUAL—Psalm 117:1-2a, 96:8

God showers us with great love (grace) which is given to the believers and the unbelievers every morning. Verse 2 of Psalm 117 expresses the Love of God that shows forth in His faithfulness. By God's grace, we depend on His Word that He will never vary from any part of His promises.

EPISTLE LESSON—1 Corinthians 15:42-58

For Epiphany 6,7 and 8, we simply cut up 1 Corinthians 15 and read it. These sections stand rather independent of the theme for the day. Today is no exception. In our reading, Paul was giving a theological exposition on the resurrection of the dead. Part of what he was fighting was a theory from the Saducees that unless you lived to the last day, you simply died. He covers that in the first section. He explains that we resemble Adam in our humanity and we resemble Jesus in our spiritual nature. We don't need the natural body to be raised as we will be raised as a spiritual body. And not that we should celebrate our death, because death is a result of sin. Lastly continue to be faithful to God because it is the work of God.

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 6:39-49

"Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?" With so few words Jesus fully explains the futility of trusting in yourself