

ceremonial law about eating with unwashed hands. Jesus called the whole crowd into the discussion. The issue of cleanliness and uncleanness is not a matter of external things. It is what comes out of us that makes us unclean. It is the attitude of our heart toward the message of Jesus Christ as the Only Begotten Son of God that causes us to be defiled in the eyes of God. Jesus went on to list specific things as His evidence that what comes out of us displays who we are. When we are in a given situation, the people of the world will hear us tell them we are Christians, and then they will see what we do. Strive to make your words and actions the same, proclaiming Jesus in all circumstances.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑩ O Lord, our God, You are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day You open Your hand and provide for the needs of Your children on Earth. We praise You for every grace and blessing. Strengthen Your Church in all the world. Let Your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere. Use our talent, energy and offering to extend Your healing and knowledge.

We bring our requests to You for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state and local governments and grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect. Bless those who practice the healing arts for the well being of our temporal bodies. Waken their hearts that they may never forget that You alone are the author of life. Be with all the doctors, nurses and other health care professionals that they are moral and godly in all their efforts and decisions. Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship. Help us always find satisfaction in a work well done. Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to any effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of Your created order and give all teachers and students the need to pursue excellence.

Gracious Father, in this last, we pray for all who must walk along the rocky path of affliction with sickness, suffering, or danger of body or soul. Let their way be filled with the light that shines from a knowledge of You and allow them always to walk in the Way of Your Son.

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

These things we ask O God, grant them for the sake and in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

© Amen.

## PROPER SEVENTEEN

### Chant Tone



### Introit

Wash me thoroughly from my  
in — iniquity,\*  
and cleanse me | from my sin.

Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be  
clean;\*  
wash me, and I shall be whi | ter  
than snow.

Create in me a clean heart, — O God,\*  
and renew a right spirit with — in me.

Cast me not away from Your  
— presence,\*  
and take not Your Holy Spirit  
— from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your  
— salvation,\*  
and uphold me with a willing  
— spirit.

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.

Wash me thoroughly from my  
in — iniquity,\*  
and cleanse me | from my sin.

(Antiphon, Psalm 51:2;  
Psalm 51:7, 10-12)

### Collect of the Day

O God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

### Gradual

Fear the Lord, | you His saints,\*  
for those who fear Him lack — nothing!  
Many are the afflictions of the — righteous,\*  
but the Lord delivers him out | of them all.

(Psalm 34:9, 19, alternative)

**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** Lord God, heavenly Father, with thanksgiving and praise we come before You. You have made known Your will in Your commandments. You have bestowed Your blessing on those who live by faith in Christ and seek to keep Your commandments. By our own effort we cannot walk blamelessly before You, but through the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ we are bold to approach Your Holy majesty. For making it possible to appear blameless before You, we give to You our humble and hearty thanks. May the hearing of Your Word and the use of Your Sacraments produce in us, and all Christians, a living faith with love toward others. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**THE OFFICIAL RULE BOOK OF THE NFL IS OVER 200 PAGES.** On the web you can view the digest version which is 14, 8½ X 11, pages. There are so many rules for something called a game. Life comes with the Moral Law of God. The digest version is 10 Commandments. The Pharisees thought they were doing God and man a favor by building laws on top of the ones God laid out. They missed the intent of the Law of God, as they missed the preface to the Law, "Do not add...do not subtract from...the commandments of the Lord Your God..." Jesus came to fulfill the whole law in our stead. He did it so we would stand before the righteous Judge of all mankind on the final day and find no one to speak against us. We keep the Law, not from fear of punishment, but from a sincere desire to honor God, Who is our Father forever.

#### **THEME OF THE DAY**

Doing God's Will

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Psalm 51:2;) Psalm 51:7, 10-12

The title of Psalm 51 says it all: "To the Choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him after he had gone in to Bathsheba." We use this Psalm to remind ourselves of the volume of our sin and the great distress it has caused in our relationship with God.

#### **COLLECT**

The knowledge of God will bring forth good works (a willingness to do God's will.) We pray that having been "nourished" on the Word of God we will bring forth the good works to the glory of God.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**—Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Two major themes surface in the text; first is the inviolability of the Holy Law of God, second is the special relationship Israel had with God as the Nation with such wise decrees and judgments. When the theme of God's Holy Law has been violated by either addition, as in the case of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law did in the Gospel Lesson, or by subtraction, as in contemporary modifications, the theme of special relationship with God can no longer be sustained. The children of Israel were told clearly what they were not to do and what they were to do in relationship to God's Law. God gave His Holy Law to the people to serve them, and they end up preferring to be a slave to their own law.

**GRADUAL**—Psalm 34:9, 19 alternative

We continue with Psalm 34:9 and 19 to remind ourselves of fearless faith which comes to us in the power of Jesus, Who established the church as His personal possession for selfless service.

**THE EPISTLE LESSON**—Ephesians 6:10-20

The Lord Jesus Christ overcame the power of the devil through His perfect life, suffering, crucifixion, death, burial, and rising again to life. The devil however, continues to have limited power here on Earth. Christians live in a hostile world. God provides His Church Militant with the tools and weapons, necessary to stand up against the methods the devil uses in an attempt to trip up the Christians as they are on the road to the full experience of eternal life. The Apostle Paul brought this message to the Christians at Ephesus. He extended an invitation/command to be strong, be strengthened by the mighty power that the Lord provides.

**THE GOSPEL LESSON**—Mark 7:14-23

Jesus was in Galilee. The Pharisees and Scribes from Jerusalem came to cause a dispute with Him. At issue was the observation Pharisees that Jesus allowed His disciples to disregard their interpretation of the