

with them they didn't have any hardships or persecutions. In this part of His sermon to the Apostles, (a sermon preached from His status as High Priest,) Jesus forewarned them of the troubles that would come into their lives. Considering the very fact that they had the documents of David's suffering at the hands of his enemies (for example Psalm 43 which is part of our Introit for the day,) one would think that they would have known they were to suffer, but they were certain they would be made to rule as princes in Christ's earthly kingdom. For us, as we watch the suffering of Christ, we can be sure that we will suffer. Our Propers for this day, combine to warn us of this suffering, and the blessed knowledge of the end of that suffering in Heaven.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

® We bring our prayer to You, O, Lord God, Almighty and ever-living king of all creation. You are the God of the living, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. All the hosts in Heaven praise and glorify, Your Holy name. Accept our praise for the wonder of Your work.

We praise You for the wondrous Love, the beauty of the Holiness, and the infinite power of Christ our Savior. We thank You that You have spoken through Him the Words of Life. We ask You to help us at all times remain faithful to His Word, and be obedient to His commands, that we may never taste the bitterness of death. Help us honor Him by faith and life, by our words and in our actions.

Out of Your infinite goodness lift up Your church, O God, that we may be saved from all weakness and failure and empowered for Holy service. Govern the nations of the Earth, that people everywhere may live without fear of their neighbors. Give Your grace to our homes and schools, that all students may be trained for usefulness in this life and taught the wonder and the work of Jesus, Who made possible their entrance into the life hereafter. Bless all who work to provide the necessities by which we must live. Give them the understanding that in all human toil we are accountable to You. Help us with that knowledge to be stewards of Your gifts.

We ask that You would be the Comforter of the suffering and afflicted, the glad hours for the aged, the supply of the needy, the protector of the homeless, and the Savior of all mankind.

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

For the Revelation of Your matchless Love in the gift of Your Son; for the unsearchable wisdom which ordained His being lifted up on the cross; and for the High Priestly sacrifice of His body on the cross; we praise You, in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

© Amen.

LENT FIVE

Chant Tone



Introit

Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly — people,*
from the deceitful and unjust man
de | liver me!

I love the Lord, because | He has heard*
my voice and my pleas for — mercy.
Because He inclined His | ear to me,*
therefore I will call on him as long
| as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid | hold on me;*
I suffered distress and — anguish.
Then I called on the name | of the Lord:*

"O Lord, I pray, deliv | er my soul!"

For you have delivered my | soul from
death,*
my eyes from tears, my feet from
— stumbling.

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.

Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly — people,*
from the deceitful and unjust man
de | liver me!

(Antiphon, Psalm 43:1;
Psalm 116:1-4, 8)

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

[Oh come let us fix our eyes on] — Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despis | ing the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

(Hebrews 12:2)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Open our lips, O Lord, and our mouths shall show forth Your praise. Restore unto us the joy of salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. Put Your law within our hearts, and help us to be Your people. Then we will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You. We acknowledge, O Lord, that we are undeserving of Your grace and mercy. We pray that You would send us Your Holy Spirit that we may properly glorify You and Your Son. Give us the zeal that will help us show others a vision of Your glory. Grant that we would all come to an awareness of the work of Your Son our Savior. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

IN OUR 1941 CYCLE OF READINGS, TODAY WAS KNOWN AS PASSION SUNDAY. In our current cycle of readings it is a continuation of the Sundays in Lent. Either way, one thing becomes clear as we read our lessons for today; Jesus was getting prepared for the events of Holy Week; the events of: His arrest, His trial, His death, His burial. We too should continue to prepare, not so much for the events of Holy Week as to prepare for the events of Easter. Each day is as Christmas, a new birth and each Sunday is as Easter, we are reminded that Jesus came out of the grave. Every day we wake with the Voice of God ringing in our ears, the Voice which tells us that, what the Father did to and through the Son, was done that we would be lifted up and never again fall, never again fail. We wish to welcome everyone who has come out to worship with us today. Obviously you too have heard the voice and answered the call to come and worship Christ our Lord.

THEME OF THE DAY:

The Chosen of God

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 43:1;) Psalm 116:1-4, 8

Psalm 43 is the historic Introit for Lent Five. It was written by David as an appendix to Psalm 42 and as such indicates that he was coming to God a second time seeking deliverance from the same issue. We are allowed to bring our troubles to God as often as we need. Psalm 116 was written by David as a general review of the many acts of grace that had been showered down on Him and the Nation.

COLLECT

This prayer is a big change from the historic prayer. As the chosen by God we ask to be preserved in Jesus.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Jeremiah 31:31-34

The sin of the "old" Israel was that they did not and would not know God. God brought His forgiveness to the people, making them "new" and proclaimed that He would make the relationship with them "new." He would put His law in their mind and write it on their heart. Underlying this was the proclamation that in Jesus, especially in His death, the forgiveness looked for by Jeremiah was granted as well as the indwelling of God. We have not reached the point where we all know God and no longer need to teach each other. The complete fulfillment is in Heaven. Jesus, is the picture of this fulfillment.

GRADUAL—Hebrews 12:2

We see the wonder of Heaven to compared to our hopelessness here on Earth. Jesus willingly endured the plan to give His life on the cross to make us over into people who fit into the plan of Heaven.

EPISTLE LESSON—Hebrews 5:1-10

Hebrews is the only New Testament book that expressly calls Jesus a priest. The superior High Priest status of Christ is the focus of chapter 5. The entire ministry of Christ was marked by rejection, taunts, ridicule, persecution, loneliness—a very miserable life, and one that led Him to cry out, and drove Him to offer many prayers to the only One who is able to rescue us. God, the Father, heard and answered the prayers of Jesus because everything He asked for was in the will of God and was requested in the eternal Priesthood He served. This means that Jesus' High Priestly work was accomplished for all people at all times. His work provides eternal life for us today.

GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 10:32-45

These verses relate to the suffering of Christ's Apostles in the work they would take on after His Resurrection and Ascension. While Christ was