

also made a confession about Himself as Lord and Savior. Which would have been enough, but nothing about Jesus was ever, "enough." Jesus was far more than we could ever expect, deserve or desire. Jesus then established the church on the faith of the believers, while maintaining all responsibility to establish the faith of the believers. Jesus established the ministry of the church, the missionary effort of bringing people to Him, through a proclamation of the faith of Peter. When the Gospel goes out into the world in faith, it allows the called from "all nations" to turn and believe.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑨ O God of mercy, You have canceled our debt of sin and have credited us with the pure righteousness of Your only-begotten Son. Raise us up each day as Your people and establish in us Your will that we are able to do Your good works. Let us do what is pleasing in Your sight, not from our will but from Your Holy will.

By Your Holy Spirit work in us a true and living faith in You and in Your Son Whom You sent, that in Your goodness and mercy we are seen by You, not having a righteousness which comes from any of our own works, since we know that even if we could fulfill one of Your Laws we would do it incorrectly, but which comes from the Righteousness of Jesus.

Work in us such a spirit of obedience to the example of our Lord Jesus Christ that we are able to keep our words pure, our actions upright and our thoughts seeking Your peace, that as we go through our life it is with an ever stronger commitment and turning over of our will to You and Your higher purpose for us and all of Your creation.

Make our homes a sanctuary of Your presence and in that sanctuary, let Jesus Christ reign as sovereign supreme. Strengthen all parents, that they will be an excellent example, encouraging their children and youth in the practice of virtue, and service to You and to each other.

Pour out Your mercy on all who are in any trial or adversity, especially those who suffer for the sake of Jesus. Save them by Your mighty power. Bless our government and all useful commerce and industry, and be with our leaders, so they will enact laws useful to our relationship with You. Help all people see that whatever they do, they are accountable to Your will and purpose.

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

For the sake and in the name of Christ our Savior; forgive our sins and cleanse us that we are able to respond rightly to the proclamation of Your Word.

© Amen.

## PROPER SIXTEEN

### Chant Tone



### Introit

But we will | bless the Lord\*  
from this time forth and  
forevermore. | Praise the Lord!

As for me, I have | set my king\*  
on Zion, My — holy hill.

I will tell of | the decree:  
The Lord said to me, "You are my  
Son; today I have be | gotten You."

Praise the Lord, all — nations!\*  
Extol Him, all — peoples!  
For great is His steadfast | love toward us,\*  
and the faithfulness of the Lord  
endures forever. | Praise the Lord!

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.

But we will | bless the Lord\*  
from this time forth and  
forevermore. | Praise the Lord!

(Antiphon, Psalm 115:18;  
Psalm 2:6-7, Psalm 117)

### Collect of the Day

Almighty God, Whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

### Gradual

Oh, fear the Lord, | you His saints,\*  
for those who fear Him | have no lack!  
Many are the afflictions of the — righteous,\*  
but the Lord delivers him out | of them all.

(Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.)

**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** In awe and wonder we appear before You, Lord God heavenly Father. Your judgments are unsearchable and Your ways inscrutable. We cannot understand why You chose Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to be Your people. Nor can we comprehend why You should be concerned about us, we who are such miserable offenders. We praise You for Your mercy and grace You continue to show to the fallen children of men. Accept our thanks for Your Love, which reaches down from Heaven and gives us salvation in Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Enable us to forgive as we have been forgiven, and bless us with Your continual presence. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**WE HAVE COME TO THE END OF SUMMER.** Many of the public and private schools began classes this past week. The students will busy themselves with new classes new teachers, the new beginnings of a new school year. In the church we spend all our days in a new beginnings; the new beginning of daily putting aside our sinful nature and taking on the nature of Christ, the new beginning of drowning the old man of sin and standing before God, perfect, washed clean in the water of our Baptism. We extend a hardy welcome to all who have been called out to worship on this day. If you are a visitor then we have the double pleasure of also thanking you for choosing our church for your worship.

**THEME OF THE DAY:**

The Rock of Faith

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Psalm 115:18;) Psalm 2: 6-7, Psalm 117

This is the Introit we can't leave alone. In the change to the three year cycle of readings, Psalm 117 was assigned to today. However, it is too short so we add in other parts. Ignore the other parts. Psalm 117 was written anonymously (although some argue that it is an introduction to Psalm 118, written by David.) Psalm 117 speaks of things that would make the Jews uncomfortable, especially the praise of "all nations," as acceptable to God. It was connected to the Gospel Lesson to explain that the members of the church come from all nations.

**COLLECT**

We use the Words of John 14:6 to ask to be kept in that Way that leads to eternal life. That is the Way of faith through Jesus Christ.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**—Isaiah 51:1-6

Isaiah was mainly writing to an oppressed people who were slowly watching their nation/state fall around them. This chapter was designed to comfort and encourage those who were keeping alive the knowledge of God, keeping His commandments, even as their whole world was failing. Whenever the church of God is in distress (from events outside her control or even events she should control, we are able to look back to the events of Abraham (the events surrounding the patriarchs) and take comfort in the facts. God raised His church from nothing more than the faith of the believers. He keeps His church in her faith, and Jesus maintains His bride (the church) all the way to salvation.

**GRADUAL**—Psalm 34:9, 19

We continue with Psalm 34:9 and 19 to remind ourselves of fearless faith which comes to us in the power of Jesus.

**EPISTLE LESSON**—Romans 11:33–12:8

This is a doxology (a verse glorifying God.) Paul drew the entire discussion of the problem of Israel's unbelief to an end. It is clear that Paul was praising God, not only for His work of salvation but especially for the manner in which God saves. God turned away from the Jews because of their faithlessness, yet that turning away became salvation for the Gentiles, the "all nations" of the Introit. Paul calls these acts by God the, "unsearchable judgments."

**GOSPEL LESSON**—Matthew 16:13-20

We are given an interesting opportunity to review our personal understanding of the work of God and the person of Jesus Christ. Peter made a bold confession about Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus