

widow of Zarephath, (from our Old Testament Lesson) wasn't going to live long on that little bit, so she gave it to God. I don't really like this account because there is no more information. The widow of Zarephath was miraculously fed by God. But what of this widow? We are meant to understand that we are never actually in control. This lesson contrasts so gravely with Mark 10:21, where the rich man couldn't give up his wealth to follow Jesus. This widow gave up everything she had, expressly to give herself over to the God of her faith, in the expectation that God would care for her needs. Even if she starved to death, her assurance was in Heaven, where she would never again have trouble. She would never again be hungry.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑩ Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You glory that You have created us and all things. We sing Your praise for the priceless gifts and endowments of body and mind, and for Your daily provision for all the necessities of our life. We are grateful for the joys of home, family, and friends and for good government and just laws. We are amazed by the wonder of education and the growth of the healing arts. We are in awe for Your protection in danger and Your deliverance from all evil. We thank You most heartily for the gift of Your Son. You saved us from wrath and appointed us to obtain salvation and eternal life. Grant that we are filled with His Spirit so that we are able to produce the fruits of faith. Give us an unshakable faith, so that when He comes in His glory we will be received into His Eternal kingdom.

Open the eyes of all who dwell in Your Church. Allow us to see that Christ the Bridegroom is prepared to come from Heaven to gather the elect from the four corners of the Earth. Give Your Pastors, Ministers and Missionaries the diligence to proclaim Your Word with all boldness. Allow the multitudes to hear the Word so they will be saved to the glory of Your Holy name.

We pray for all sorts and conditions of people in the world, the afflicted, the weary, the wounded, the sick, the diseased, the aged and the infirm, the depressed, the anxious, the imperiled and oppressed. By Your Almighty power give them Christ Jesus as a light for their darkness and joy in their sadness, and if it be Your will deliver them in service to You.

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

Grant us steadfastness and patience as we wait for the coming of Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, that He may take us home to live with You forever. In His exalted name we pray.

**© Amen.**

## PROPER TWENTY-SEVEN

### Chant Tone



### Introit

Let them thank the Lord for His  
| steadfast love,\*

for His wondrous works to the  
chil | dren of men!

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for | He is  
good,\*

for His steadfast love endures  
for — ever!

Let the redeemed of the Lord — say so,\*  
whom He has redeemed from  
— trouble.

He raises up the needy out of  
af — fliction\*  
and makes their families — like flocks.  
The upright see it | and are glad,\*  
and all wickedness | shuts its mouth.

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.

Let them thank the Lord for His  
| steadfast love,\*  
for His wondrous works to the  
chil | dren of men!

(Antiphon, Psalm 107:8;  
Psalm 107:1-2, 41-42)

### Collect of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Grant us so firmly to believe in Your Son Jesus that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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:** In the congregation of those made righteous through Christ we praise You, O Lord, with our whole heart. Your great works are full of honor and majesty. You have sent redemption to Your people because You are gracious and merciful. Your praise endures forever. Through Your Word, which will not pass away, we learn that Judgment Day is fast approaching. Help us to recognize the signs that will precede Christ's coming. With the assurance that all our sins are forgiven in Christ, we can approach that day with peace of heart and quietness of mind. In the name of Him Who will be the final Judge of all, we pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**THE CALENDAR SAYS DECEMBER IS THE LAST MONTH OF THE YEAR.** The Church says November is the last month. We use the Church calendar to remind ourselves of the rapid approach of the end of the world. We are living in the end times. Jesus is coming again, very soon, sooner than at any other time in the history of the world. Everything necessary for the second coming of Christ has occurred. The passing away of Heaven and Earth is at hand. As end time Christians our days are filled with joy in Christ's eternal Word.

**THEME OF THE DAY:**

Believe in God

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Psalm 107:8;) Psalm 107:1-2, 41-42  
These Propers were created (with no historic basis) for the 25th Sunday after Pentecost, for the first three year cycle. Because of the dating for Easter, they were never used. In our revision of 2006 we moved it one Sunday toward the end. Psalm 107 was most likely written by David. For whatever reason, we have chopped it up leaving out verse three which makes it clear that God will redeem people from all nations and bring them to His home. Trouble will come into our life. God has promised that in His city, the troubles of our soul will be satisfied.

**COLLECT**

During the last three Sundays of the Church Year we remind ourselves specifically of the end of all time. Our main goal is to believe so firmly in Jesus Christ that our faith will take us home!

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**—1 Kings 17:8-16

Here we are introduced to Elijah the prophet who was sent by God to stand in purity against the most evil king Ahab. God had Elijah declare a curse on the land, and then God sent Elijah to the house of a Gentile widow. Again we find faith among the Gentiles, and the assurance that even in the troubles going on in the world, God will provide for His people.

**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 9:24-28

This paragraph is so deep that those who collected it into our Propers took off the first sentence (verse23,) because it is too complicated (it connects to 8:5.) Last week the Scribe added information about the inability of an animal sacrifice to bring salvation. The author of Hebrews tells us that it was Christ, Whose act of sacrifice was so great that it only had to be done once to ensure the salvation of all. (And we have a mention of the "end of the ages," to place us into the end time mood.)

**GOSPEL LESSON**—Mark 12:38-44

The word we translate "penny" confuses this passage. While the agora, is now, 1/100 of the Israeli pound, at the time of Jesus the agora, was 1/64 of a days wage. So, the widow had a few dollars, She, as with the