

telling them to weep for themselves (they obviously didn't recognize Jesus as the Messiah,) He asked for blanket forgiveness from God the Father, for without that forgiveness we wouldn't even have the opportunity to repent, He consented to the sign over His head which (very accurately) proclaimed Him, "The King Of The Jews," and He guaranteed the repentant sinner/thief that, "today," he would be in Paradise. We read these words to remember that everything has been fulfilled and we are awaiting the time that we will join Jesus in Paradise.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

® O God, You have saved us and called us with a Holy calling. You did this, not according to our works, but according to Your own purpose and promise. You gave this to us in Christ Jesus before the world began. We thank You for the abundance of Your mercies. Especially, we thank You for the gift of Your Son our Savior, in Whom, through His sufferings and death, You have abolished death and, through His Resurrection, brought life and immortality to light.

Grant that by Your grace we may continue in the things we have learned through Your Word. Continue to assure us by the Holy Spirit, so that, being wise unto salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus, we may receive, on the day of His coming, the crown of righteousness which He has laid up for us and for all who long for His appearing. Save us from following after sin, lies, deceptions and vain philosophies. Free us from the noise and calamities of the world, so that we are able to always listen only to Your Holy and Eternal Word of life.

Give strength to all of those believers in Your Church, that we will fight the good fight of faith. Empower us to raise up a faithful ministry of the knowledge of Jesus Christ. To that end, call messengers who will endure hardship as good soldiers in carrying the Gospel to all lands. Prosper the schools of Your Church, that the young people may be prepared to serve You and everyone in useful and honorable vocations.

Hear the cry of the afflicted and give them Your compassionate aid. Make straight paths for them, strengthening the weak, upholding the feeble, and healing the sick.

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

Preserve us in our faith, that we continue to expect the blessed and glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ when He comes as our victorious king. In His name we pray.

© Amen.

PROPER TWENTY-NINE

Chant Tone



Introit

Let all the Earth | fear the Lord;*
let all the inhabitants of the world
stand in | awe of Him!

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants
| of the Lord,*
who stand by night in the house | of
the Lord!
Lift up your hands to the — holy place*
and | bless the Lord!

May the Lord bless you from — Zion,*
He Who made | Heaven and Earth!

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 all the Earth | fear the Lord;*
let all the inhabitants of the world
stand in | awe of Him!

(Antiphon, Psalm 33:8;
Psalm 134)

Collect of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father 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 7:14; Psalm 84:5)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: King of the universe, Redeemer of the world, without beginning and without end, we come before You to praise Your divine majesty. Lord Jesus Christ, we give You humble and hearty thanks for calling us into Your kingdom. We gratefully acknowledge the benefits of living in Your kingdom. For setting aside Your divine majesty and becoming one of us, we adore Your most Holy name. For sacrificing Your life for our salvation, we give You thanks. You have freed us from our sins by Your blood and made us a kingdom of priests before God. To You we ascribe glory, dominion and power forever and forever more. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE SUNDAY OF PROPER TWENTY-NINE IS THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR. This is our last opportunity this church year, to reflect on God the Creator and Sustainer of the world. We know that we will awake tomorrow in the praise of God, (whether we are on this Earth or in our eternity in Heaven,) yet we are also aware that we are living in the end time (the Eschaton.) The end is near! We do not know the exact hour and day of the Second Coming of Christ, yet we keep ourselves prepared, while doing the work which must be done now and into the future, as we wait for the last day to come.

THEME OF THE DAY:

All Is Fulfilled

INTROIT—(Antiphon, Psalm 33:8;) Psalm 134

As far as I can determine, the Old Testament Lesson is from the liturgy of the ancient church, otherwise these are all new Propers. Because of its location, we ascribe Psalm 33 to David. It is a broad ranging hymn of praise to God for the creation of the world and our preservation. Psalm 134, was also likely written by David. It is the last of the, "Ascent," Psalms which we take to mean they were all sung together.

COLLECT

For the Last Sunday In the Church Year, we are looking forward to the our entrance into eternal paradise won for us on the cross.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Malachi 3:13-18

The book of Malachi sets the stage for the coming of the "Day Of The Lord" which was the coming of Christ in His first advent. Malachi is the transition. The people were allowed to return to the land, allowed to rebuild the temple, but to what end. The city of Jerusalem, the temple itself had lost all of its glory. There was despair in the kingdom. What good was it to serve God if they didn't get any glory, now! The glory is in having our names written in Heaven, and we are written in Christ through our faith by which we have faith to do the right thing.

GRADUAL—Revelation 7:14b, Psalm 84:5

Those who have come out of the tribulation of this world are the one's who praise God for all the blessings they have been given. They have done the right thing, they have believed in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

EPISTLE LESSON—Colossians 1:13-20

We Christians often forget what great things God our heavenly Father, has done for us. We even become unclear as to how and through Whom He has done these great things. We think it is good to be self reliant and self sufficient. Paul reminded us that we thank, pray to and praise God for all things. Especially we are to praise God for the work and the person of His Son, our Savior, Jesus. This lesson is an addition to our reading cycle (it adds to our Proper 10 lesson.) We use it here, on the last Sunday of the Church year, to remember the great work of Jesus because He established our relationship with God.

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 23:27-43

This was given as the alternative lesson in 1968, now it is the proscribed lesson. What we are reading is the account of the earliest moments in the crucifixion of Jesus. (The "Tre-Ore," the three hours, begins at verse 44.) In these last few moments, Jesus: chastised the professional mourners,