

lack of understanding concerning the mission of Christ. When Jesus Christ described His rejection, suffering and crucifixion, He was immediately rebuked by Peter. The stern words of Jesus, were followed by instruction concerning the appropriate attitude for the disciple who would follow Jesus. Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of Man. He had proven Himself before witnesses to be the Christ. He was moving to teach them of the work ahead that must be accomplished. He not only spoke plainly He spoke often, so that the disciples would understand. With all that work, they still didn't understand. Mark showed us these things so that we can understand our own confusion. When we don't understand Jesus, we think it is because we don't have Christ here with us. They didn't understand with Christ in their midst. Our salvation is simply difficult to grasp and often even more difficult to hold, especially in the face of suffering.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ We praise You, Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. You are God who does not live in a temple made with our hands. We ask that as You created all things, both visible and invisible, by Your mighty Word, that You would grant us a true faith. We know that without faith it is impossible to please You, and that anyone who would come to You must believe that You are the Only and the living God.

Bring us to understand that You have the whole world in Your hand, and that none of us live only for ourselves, none of us die only to ourselves, for we are Yours as all of creation is Yours. Grant that we may see that our chief work is to believe in You and in the One You sent, even our Lord Jesus Christ.

As You have ordained that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, we ask that You would find among the members of Your church the men and women who will take the Gospel into every home in every land. Give to these people, so chosen by You, the heart and vision to pray, give, and labor, that all may have the Living Water welling up to eternal life.

We ask this day for all who are in authority over us; that they may have respect for Your Holy will. We ask for any who may live in danger because of the Gospel; preserve them from all harm. We ask for all who live with war in their land; send them peace, especially the knowledge of You that they may be made at peace with their own sinful desires. We ask for all who are ill, troubled in the spirit, or otherwise hurt or injured; send Your angels to be with them to comfort and lift them up. We ask for our homes; that they would be places of Christian love. We ask for this our church, that we would be a beacon of salvation to the people of our town, and the world.

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

These things we ask in the name of Jesus who gave His life as a ransom.

© Amen.

LENT TWO

Chant Tone



Introit

Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your | steadfast love,*
for they have been | from of old.

You who fear the Lord, trust | in the Lord!*

He is their help | and their shield.

The Lord has remembered us; He will
—bless us;*

He will bless the house of Israel; He
will bless the house of —Aaron;
He will bless those who | fear the Lord,*
both the small | and the great.

We will | bless the Lord*
from this time forth and
forevermore. | Praise the Lord!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy —Spirit;
as it was in the be —ginnings,*
is now, and will be forever. —Amen.

Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and
Your | steadfast love,*
for they have been | from of old.

(Antiphon, Psalm 25:6;
Psalm 115:11-13, 18)

Collect of the Day

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

[O 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)

Verse

If anyone would come after Me, let him de | ny himself*
and take up his cross and | follow Me.

(Mark 8:34b)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: We give glory to Your name, O Lord, for Your steadfast Love and faithfulness. Our trust in You has never been misplaced, for You have been our help and shield. You have been mindful of Your own, and we have experienced Your blessings. From this time forth and even forevermore we bless and praise You, O Lord. Send us Your Holy Spirit that He may strengthen our faith in our Savior. Help us trust in Him as the only way between Earth and Heaven, may we constantly rejoice in the certainty of our salvation. All this we ask in the name of Him who justified us in Your sight by His blood, Christ our Lord. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

IF YOU HAVE EVER BEEN AT THE BEACH WHEN THE FOG ROLLED IN, YOU HAVE SOME IDEA OF THE WAY OUR SEASON OF LENT BUILDS TOWARD THE DAYS OF MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY. The Sundays of Lent are festival days. The members of the Early Church (who were in fast and denial for Lent) would wash their hands and faces for the Sunday worship. Even in this time of building toward His death on the cross, we are still aware that our Savior lives eternally for us. We thank everyone for coming to out to worship with us today. Worship is a social event in which we listen as God speaks and then we respond with the songs of His praise and glory for all He has so willingly done for us. All of His work is done out of purely Fatherly goodness and mercy.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Repent and Believe

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 25:6;) Psalm 115:11-13, 18

The only historic connection in or lessons today is the one verse from Psalm 25. Everything else was new with the three year cycle. Psalm 25 was written by David. It is considered to be a Psalm of faith. The church has used this Psalm on the Second Sunday in Lent from our historic beginning. Psalm 115 is a Psalm of general thanksgiving. The section we have chosen is a series of blessings we receive from God.

COLLECT

Sin hurts, body and soul. We pray that God would keep us from the harms inflicted by sin.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

We changed our Old Testament Lesson (from Genesis 28 the history of Issac) to these verses from chapter 17 in our most recent cycle Now, we go backward and are introduced to Abraham, and Sarah. Sort of a prequel to last weeks lesson.

GRADUAL—Hebrews 12:2

Hebrews chapter 12 compares the greater wonder of Heaven to the lesser wonder of our place here on Earth, and encourages us to look to Jesus for patience and perseverance.

EPISTLE LESSON—Romans 5:1-11

Our justification necessarily involves our reconciliation. This is important because between a human judge and an accused person there is not necessarily anything personal. The relationship between God and the sinner is not just a legal one; it is also very personal. Paul tells us that those God has declared to be "just," (righteous) are those whom God calls, "friend." The suffering we endure is given meaning because of the suffering of Christ. We are enabled to rejoice in our suffering because Jesus came into the world and took up our sin, suffering the punishment from God for the separation. Nothing we will suffer even approaches Jesus' great act, (we suffer in the face of our sin.) We will never suffer the ultimate consequence of eternal death in Hell, because we, in Jesus, have been made friends with God.

VERSE—Mark 8:34b

This is a verse from our Gospel Lesson.

GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 8:27-38

Peter's monumental confession in which he demonstrated that He fully understood the person of Jesus, was immediately followed by a complete