

of the crock-pot,) and it has had a deleterious effect in that it allowed the leadership of the people to question Jesus and accuse Him of breaking the "rules." There is a reason that God gave us the Commandment (which we call the Third.) It is to our advantage to stop and take time to allow God to fill us with His Word and wonder. Participation in worship "communion" with the faithful, fills us in ways we hardly recognize. Our sin drags us down, the time with God lifts us up. The people of the world drag us into their sinfulness, the people of faith lift us up to be with them in worship and praise. Jesus pointed out that their hero, David, ate on the Sabbath, perhaps they should stop trying to make foolish rules and recognize the wonder of true faith in the One True God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If they actually professed belief in the commandments then they would be able to recognize Jesus, the author of the Commandments.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑩ Almighty God, our heavenly Father You are our strength and stay. Uphold all creation by Your power. Sustain the Earth and all who live here by Your Love. Help us as we walk in Your way, to do it in the wisdom that only comes from You.

We praise You for the Revelation of Your essence in Your Law, in which You have taught us Your Holy will and by which You govern the world. Grant that Your Law may ever instruct us in righteousness, that we will listen to Your Laws as Commandments that keep us from its judgments.

We thank You that in the merits and mercies of Christ our Lord You have prepared for us the Great Supper of salvation. Through the preaching of the Gospel You have called all to come and partake; to break bread in Your kingdom. We pray that Your Church may faithfully bring Your invitation to all nations and that many may respond with ready and willing hearts. Send forth messengers to invite those in the streets and lanes of the city and those on the highways of life, the poor, the maimed the troubled, that they may taste of Your Supper and see that You are merciful and good.

Lord of hosts, rule over all to whom You have committed authority. Refine our society by giving it purity of motive, nobleness of purpose, and strength of character. Bless our homes, that they may be places of true wisdom and love, that all therein will abide in peace, joy and harmony with one another. Comfort the sick and the sorrowful, the aged and the lonely. Tenderly bestow upon them Your grace and show us all the great mercy You have prepared.

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

Hear our prayer O Father, and if there is anything else we should have asked, grant it to us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Intercessor.

© Amen.

PROPER FOUR

Chant Tone



Introit

For God alone my soul waits in | silence;*
from Him comes my sal | vation.

For God alone, O my soul, wait in
| silence,*
for my hope is | from Him.
He only is my rock and my salvation,
my | fortress;*
I shall not be | shaken.

On God rests my salvation and my
| glory;*
my mighty rock, my refuge | is God.

Trust in Him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart be | fore Him;*
God is a refuge | for us.

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.

For God alone my soul waits in | silence;*
from Him comes my sal | vation.

(Antiphon, Psalm 62:1;
Psalm 62:5-8)

Collect of the Day

Eternal God, Your Son Jesus Christ is our true Sabbath rest. Help us to keep each day holy by receiving His Word of comfort that we may find our rest in Him, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Great is the Lord, and greatly | to be praised,*
and His greatness is un | searchable.

On Your wondrous works, I will | meditate.*
and I will declare Your —greatness.

(Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, hear us as we confess our need for a more holy faith. We believe in your omnipotence, and in Your grace, but too often we approach You with bold commands, instead of with the confidence that You know what is best in every situation. Our humility is often undone by our being convinced that we deserve Your blessings. Forgive us for our spiritual immaturity. Grant us the faith to trust completely in Your Divine authority and accept our worship this day, as testimony to the faith we have in the Lordship of Christ in our life. This we ask in the name above every other name. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

WE HAVE ENTERED THE NON-FESTIVAL HALF OF THE CHURCH YEAR. (Calling it "half" is only a convention as it may or may not be 26 weeks.) In the Non-Festival half, we listen to the general lessons of life and faith which Jesus taught to His disciples. These lessons were important to the faith and life of the disciples who walked with Jesus so many years ago. These lessons are as important for we who walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Today we read of our permission and obligation to worship, the wonder of Paul, a former persecutor of Christians, who turned and became the greatest advocate of faith, and the fact that we were created by God to be served by God to enjoy our life. We were not to be robots whose only life is to serve a tyrannical deity.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Keep The Sabbath

INTROIT—(Antiphon, Psalm 62:1;) Psalm 62:5-8

This Psalm was written by David during a time when his enemies were seeking to destroy him. We use the introduction verse 1 where we read of patience and the center verses 5-8, where we are reminded to trust God for He is the refuge.

COLLECT

The prayers in the non-festival half of the church year are somewhat generic. Today we echo the Old Testament in our recognition that the true Sabbath rest is Jesus and that we worship all our days as a gift from God to be enjoyed through our faith.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Deuteronomy 5:12-15

One of the two places in the bible, that list the 10 Commandments is in Deuteronomy 5. (In fact, if you need to look up the Commandments realize that they are listed in the 5th book of the Bible in the 5th chapter (5+5=10). This reading was added to our first revision to the reading schedule. It gives us the reason for our permission and obligation to gather for worship. God said it, I believe it, that settles it!

GRADUAL—Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b

Psalm 145 is titled, "David's Psalm of Praise." (The last 5 Psalms are all hymns of praise.) In this Psalm, David, concentrated on the Greatness of God and the proofs of the administration of His kingdom as that which we are to praise. In our case, this means that we meditate on the grace and mercy of God that allows us to be His Disciples.

EPISTLE LESSON—2 Corinthians 4:5-12

We begin the Propers portion of the "B" cycle reading a good deal of the book of 2 Corinthians. Paul was discussing his ministry as the Apostle to the Corinthians. Paul continued to speak of the power and weakness in his ministry. Paul's faith knew that God will raise and present him and the Corinthians together on the Last Day. All of the weakness of Paul, the hardships, the preaching, the grace overflowed from the strength of God. Paul and all Christians recognize that even as our body is wasting away in the weakness of sin, death and Satan, the strength of God renews us every day to the wonder of salvation. (Which was assured to us in the water and Word of our baptism.)

GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 2:23-28

The Hebrew people took the simple list of commandments of God, and turned them into 613 mitzvot. These rules include exactly how many steps one can take on the Sabbath. This has had a useful effect (development