

are rooted in that fact that no one can be devoted to two competing interests. We prove that fact every Sunday when the world offers an alternative event to worship, for then we must pick one; God or event. We end up having to choose between time with God or time without God which only increases our fear. "O you of little faith," your faith isn't going to get stronger following a path that leads away from Jesus, so, "seek the kingdom," not just first but primarily, and the blessings will be added through your understanding.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ Blessed are You, O Lord, and blessed is Your Holy name. You forgive all our iniquities and heal our diseases. You redeem us from destruction and crown us with steadfast Love and mercy. You renew our youth like the eagle's by satisfying us with good things. You do not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our sins. Accept, O Lord, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

We confess that our lives have not always been letters of recommendation. We have been guilty of trying to keep the letter of the Law, while forgetting its spirit. As the example of Christ to a world lost in religious confusion, our testimony leaves much to be desired. We have often attempted to mend the flaws in our lives with patches of our own good works. For our failure to live up to Your expectations, forgive us, O Lord.

Visit us with Your Holy Spirit, and change our hearts to love You more completely. Help us rejoice in Your mercy as revealed to us by Your Son Jesus Christ. Grant us serenity in the midst of trials and afflictions. Give us power to be worthy examples of Your Love in a loveless world. Permeate the councils of nations and of our own nation with Your Spirit of justice, mercy, and forgiveness.

Through Your beloved Son Jesus Christ, You have revealed Your Word in the flesh. Send us Your Holy Spirit that we may hear Him speaking to us in Your Word. Give us the courage to hold high the light of Your Word to those who sit in darkness, and bless it in the hearts of those who hear it.

Extend Your healing hand to the sick, Your presence to the lonely, and Your guarantee of everlasting life to the bereaved.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)
In the most Holy name of Jesus we pray.

© Amen.

PROPER THREE

Chant Tone



Introit

Trust in Him at all times, O — people;*
pour out your heart before Him;
God is a re | fuge for us.

For God alone my soul waits in
— silence;*

from Him comes my sal — vation.
He only is my rock and my sal — vation,*
my fortress; I shall not be greatly
— shaken.

Once God has — spoken;*
twice have I heard this: that power
be | longs to God,

and that to You, O Lord, belongs
| steadfast love.*

For You will render to a man
according | to his work.

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.

Trust in Him at all times, O — people;
pour out your heart before Him;
God is a re | fuge for us.

(Antiphon, Psalm 62:8;
Psalm 62:1-2, 11-12)

Collect of the Day

Eternal God, You counsel us not to be anxious about earthly things. Keep alive in us a proper yearning for those heavenly treasures awaiting all who trust in Your mercy, that we may daily rejoice in Your salvation and serve You with constant devotion; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, 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: Lord God, You know what I am. Give me the courage to face the truth about myself. Keep me from pride and deceit. Do not permit me to make my life counterfeit or to hide behind some cheap pretense. In the crucified Christ let me see the depth of my sin, the grossness of my selfishness, and the judgment of death I deserve. In the risen Christ let me see the new life You have given me by Your grace, experiencing the deliverance from my old self and the freedom to live for You. With the mind of Christ ruling me, let me be honest with You, with myself, and with all people. In the exalted name of Christ I pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THIS SUNDAY OF PROPER THREE CAME INTO EXISTENCE IN 2006. Our new three year cycle of readings has located the lessons to the weeks of the year, and for that reason we ended up with an extra Sunday at the beginning. So... those who put together the lessons looked backward and gave us lessons we rarely hear. Our Old Testament and Gospel Lessons are from Epiphany Eight. Because of the manner in which the date for Easter moves, Epiphany Eight and Proper Three can not exist in the same Church Year. These lessons (especially the Gospel Lesson telling us to lean on Jesus and not on our anxiety) are important for us to hear, especially when the troubles come into our life. We welcome everyone to worship today. We have all tossed aside our cares and anxiety to come and worship our creator, redeemer and sanctifier, the God of our today and the God of our blessed tomorrow eternally in Heaven.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Seek the Kingdom

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 62:8) Psalm 62:1-2, 11-12

This Psalm was written by David during a time when his enemies were seeking to destroy him. We use the introduction verses 1-2 where we read of patience, the center verse 8, where we are reminded to trust God for He is the refuge, and the end verses 11-12, where we are told that our faith will be rewarded.

COLLECT

When our day-to-day effort to live in the world becomes a problem, we are anxious about tomorrow. We ask God to allow us to trust Him for the day-to-day that we are able to live in the wonder of our knowledge of salvation in Heaven.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 49:8-16a

This is one of those times when taking a set of verses out of the larger context doesn't quite work. It is important to know that chapter 49 of Isaiah is the second of the "Servant Songs," the second of the four times that the coming Savior is portrayed as the suffering servant. Verse 6 makes the point of the servant, and was used by Simeon when he sang the Nunc Dimittis. Verses 8-16 are a statement from God concerning the blessings, including that the believers will not be forgotten because their names will be tattooed onto the palms of their Savior's hands.

GRADUAL—Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b

Psalm 145 is titled, "David's Psalm of Praise." (The last 5 Psalms are 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—Romans 1:8-17

In 2006 Proper 3 was added to the reading cycle. In the A cycle we read much of Romans. This is the first liturgical use of Romans chapter 1. Paul categorically states that there is no reason to be ashamed of the proclamation of the Gospel because it is the power of salvation. Being ashamed to tell others may ensure they never hear of Jesus.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 6:24-34

Our ESV and other Bible versions separate verse 24 from 25. This makes verse 24 a memory verse to be trotted out during stewardship campaigns to prove that real Christians should give all of their money to the church. The fact that verse 25 begins with the word, "therefore," rather implies that the two verses are connected. The statements from verses 25-30