

it. (Matt 5:17) Jesus was distressed with the work of the Gospel. The work of bringing the Gospel to the people of the world, the work of making peace between God and man was a distressing work. What the humanity of Jesus could not accomplish, the divinity completely fulfilled. The Word of God is so exact that it excises the sin from our life, with the sharp knife of the Word, Christ cuts out the sin and replaces it with our salvation. The Word of God, the Law and the Gospel will make the division between those who believe and those who do not believe. The division will cause distress in us but is a blessing from God.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ O Lord, You are the Light of Your people, the Salvation of the world, the strength of those whom You have called. We thank You for the gift of Your Word and for the gift of faith by which we are able to acknowledge all You have done for us in our creation, rebirth and continued sanctification. We ask that You would listen now to the prayer of Your people for the sake of our Lord Jesus.

O Lord, You are mindful of all of our necessities, giving both the righteous and the ungodly their daily bread. Help us understand the nature of Your providence and enable us to receive Your benefits with thanksgiving. Bless all the things You continue to give us each succeeding season. We especially ask for Your favor and blessing on these gifts from You that support our bodies and show forth Your Love and care. Keep us in health so that we are able to serve You in this life and in the world to come, feeding us on the Bread from Heaven, Christ our Savior.

Cause the Gospel to be preached in all lands and in every tongue. Maintain Your church as the place where Christ dwells in the true faith. Bless our schools, that all teachers may both acknowledge and serve You, and that all the students may find in You the treasure of life and truth. Give wisdom and counsel to all who in the government of this land have authority over us, so that we may worship and serve You without hindrance, and live in peace and righteousness.

We pray for all who suffer sickness, pain, disease, affliction, or any adversity of body, mind, or spirit. Be with them in their suffering, and give them the strength that will enable them to bear their cross and the spirit of the One who taught us to say, "Thy will be done."

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

Now, dear Father, for the sake of Jesus forgive us our sins and cleanse us by His Word, take away all our distress, filling us instead with the expectation and promise of life everlasting.

© Amen.

PROPER FIFTEEN

Chant Tone



Introit

Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will sus — tain you;*

He will never permit the righteous | to be moved.

Give ear to my | prayer, O God,*
and hide not Yourself from my plea
for — mercy!

For it is not an enemy who taunts me;
then I could — bear it;*
it is not an adversary who deals
insolently with me; then I could
| hide from him.

But it is you, a man, my — equal*
my companion, my fa | miliar friend.

We used to take sweet counsel
— together,*

within God's house we walked | in
the throng.

But I | call to God,*
and the Lord will — save me.

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.

Cast your burden on the Lord, and He
will sus — tain you;*

He will never permit the righteous
| to be moved.

(Antiphon, Psalm 55:22;
Psalm 55:1, 12-14, 16)

Collect of the Day

Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend Your Church by the sacrifice of Christ. United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work and daily follow in His way; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Oh, fear the Lord, | you His saints,*
for those who fear Him | have no lack!
Many are the afflictions of the — righteous,*
but the Lord delivers him out | of them all.

(Psalm 34:9, 19 alternative)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: In praise and adoration, O Lord, we come before You, our hearts filled with gratitude. Once again Your almighty power has brought us safely through the night. In You, O Lord, is our trust; You shower down on us Your kindness and mercy. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we may readily embrace and ever hold fast to Your Son Jesus Christ. As He gives us His flesh to eat and His blood to drink, help us recognize in Him the source of our life. May He abide in us and we in Him. May our faith in Him be reflected in our life. And may everyone, everywhere, come to know Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life, for salvation. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

IN THE YEAR 70, THE ROMANS DESTROYED JERUSALEM. For all intent and purpose, every man, woman and child was killed. The walls of the city were thrown down; and the temple was sacked, looted and burned. When the Christians came to understanding that the city was going to be over-run and destroyed (which became apparent in 68,) they picked up and moved. They were strangers to their home towns and when they realized the destruction was imminent they were in the perfect position to leave. They no longer had ties to the land, and they had been cut off by their families for their conversion to Christianity. Jesus came into the world to cause division. He came to divide sin from salvation. He came to set us apart in the water and the Word of our Baptism from those who have not been received into the kingdom of God. Jesus came to establish the division between the saved (through their faith and Baptism) and the people of the world.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Faith Divides

INTROIT—(Antiphon, Psalm 55:22;) Psalm 55:1, 12-14, 16
This is our first liturgical use of Psalm 55. David wrote this Psalm during one of his periods of distress. Obviously some one person in particular had betrayed David, (sometimes this is taught as if it were a prophecy of Judas.) David wasn't asking for revenge. He was calling on the Lord to save him, to change his distress into faith.

COLLECT

Jesus was given as the sacrifice for our sin. This is the wonder of the Gospel. We are asking for God to Love us so much that He makes the Gospel real in our life, and then in the fruits of our faith we are able to follow Jesus on a daily basis.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Jeremiah 23:16-29

Jeremiah was called on to witness the most humiliating events brought on the chosen people because of their lack of faith. But even Jeremiah wasn't all gloom and doom. The Law of God says; don't lie, don't worship false gods, don't follow the false philosophies. Yet, be not distressed. God is next to you when you are near and next to you when you are far away. God is with us at all times and in all places, therefore our testimony of God should always be faithful and true.

GRADUAL—Psalm 34:9, 19 alternative

David was afraid of King Saul so he pretended to be crazy. Psalm 34 was written when he stopped pretending. David remembered to take refuge in God and to depend on Him for deliverance. When He remembered, his distress was turned into a blessing from God.

EPISTLE LESSON—Hebrews 11:17–12:3

What are we watching? So many choices in our life, so many things to look at. What race are we running? So many places to go, so much to do. Let us indeed watch Jesus. He started in the dessert, defeating Satan for us. He keep on the path with people of wrong expectations, with people who refused to believe. He endured the mission and the ministry, he stayed in step. Jesus went where we will not. Jesus went into the punishment of God the Father, so that we never have to endure that rejection. We continue to watch as Jesus sat down at the right hand of God, and beckons us to Him, waves to us, lights the way that leads to the place at His right hand, to be with God the Father eternally.

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 12:49-56

Jesus the Savior, is also Jesus the Judge. As Judge, He came to bring the fire of judgment on the world. He came to fulfill the Law, not to abolish