

weren't really concerned about Jesus. Their theology did not include a promised Messiah. They taught that the dead were gone. Only those who were alive when God ended the world would have any chance for Heaven. They formed a question that they assumed would prove that Jesus was a religious fraud. Clearly this argument of a woman and marriage had confounded the Pharisees and the Scribes. The Sadducees claimed that only Moses was to be believed as a spokesman for God. Jesus, using only the account of the, "Burning Bush," embarrassed the Sadducees. God named Himself, "I Am," and spoke of the Patriarchs (whom the Sadducees claimed as dead and gone) as alive. Jesus proved that His Father has promised us both life now, and a better life in the eternity of Heaven.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

® Lord God, heavenly Father, of Whom and through Whom and to Whom are all things, to You be glory forever and ever.

We thank You for all Your blessings: for our creation and all that exists; for the priceless gifts and endowments of body and mind and for Your daily provision for all the necessities of life; for the joys of home, family, and friends and for good government and just laws; for the light of education and the growth of the healing arts; for Your protection in danger and for Your deliverance from all evil. Most heartily we thank You for the gift of Your Son Jesus, our Lord, by Whom You have saved us from wrath and appointed us to obtain salvation and eternal life. Grant that we may be filled with His Spirit and produce the fruits of faith, desire, and compassion, so that when He comes in His glory we may be received into His Eternal kingdom.

Open the eyes of Your Church to see that Christ the Bridegroom is prepared to come and gather the elect from the four corners of the Earth. Give us the diligence to proclaim Your Word with all boldness so that all people will be saved to the glory of Your Holy name.

We pray for all sorts and conditions of people in the world; the afflicted, the weary, the wounded, the sick, the diseased, the aged and the infirm, the depressed, the anxious, the imperiled and the oppressed. By Your Almighty power give them Christ Jesus as a light for their darkness and joy in their sadness. If it be Your will, heal, comfort, calm, bind up and deliver all those who have given their lives in service to You.

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

Grant us steadfastness and patience as we wait for the coming of Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, that He may take us home to live with You forever. In His exalted name we pray.

© Amen.

PROPER TWENTY-SEVEN

Chant Tone



Introit

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

He is their help | and their shield.

Why should the | nations say,*
"Where | is their God?"

Our God is in the — heavens;*

He does all that He — pleases.
Their idols are sil | ver and gold,*
the work of | human hands.

Those who make them be | come like them;*

so do all who | trust in them.

The dead do not | praise the Lord,*
nor do any who go down into
— silence.

But 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 — ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

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

He is their help | and their shield.

(Antiphon, Psalm 115:11;
Psalm 115:2-4, 8, 17-18)

Collect of the Day

Living God, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of Your grace to lay hold of Your promises and live forever in Your presence; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You 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: Lord God, heavenly Father, with all creation we lift up our voices to You in praise for Your loving-kindness. We confess that in spite of Your power and loving-kindness we have often permitted fear to enter our hearts. When we consider the multitude of our sins, we often doubt Your grace to cover them all. Send us Your Holy Spirit that He may comfort our hearts with faith in Your continuing Love and mercy. Set our minds and hearts on Your promises of eternal life through Your Son Jesus Christ. May the assurance of the resurrection strengthen us to live to Your honor and glory. Hear our prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE SADDUCEES WERE THE MAJORITY PARTY AMONG THE HEBREW PEOPLE. As a group they were not threatened by Jesus to the same extent as the Pharisees. The Pharisees had failed in all of their attempts to challenge Jesus. The Sadducees thought they had "the question" that could only be answered, "there is no resurrection," because the Sadducees only accepted the first five books of the Bible and had come to the conclusion that only people alive at the Resurrection would live in Heaven. Jesus not only answered their question, He embarrassed them with truth spoken by Moses that they had overlooked. God is pro life. God established life and has assured, we Christians, that though we will pass through the veil of death, it is a passing from this life on Earth to the wonder of life eternal. Our God is the God of the living.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Eternal Life

INTROIT—(Antiphon, Psalm 115:11;) Psalm 115 2-4, 8, 17-18
Psalm 115 is in a general collection of Psalms of praise and glory. We don't have any clues as to who or when it was written. These verses were selected to contrast faith with faithlessness.

COLLECT

This prayer (new in 2006,) points out the mercy of God that allows us to live in His grace for eternal life.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Exodus 3:1-15

Moses' life took unusual twists and turns. He should have been killed at birth, instead he was raised in the Pharaoh's house. He should have been a leader, but instead he was a shepherd. The people of his birth family feared him, the people of his adopted family wanted him dead. Moses was watching someone else's sheep. What a loafer! An unlikely bush became the presentation of God. The lowliness of the bush represented both Moses and the chosen people. Though we are a lowly bush we are made great through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The fire is like the presence of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. God in us makes us a light so others can see, yet we are not burned by the fire for we are safe in Him.

GRADUAL—Revelation 7:14b, Psalm 84:5

Those who have come out of the tribulation of this world are those who have been given faith. These people praise God for all they have been given. Revelation 7 tells us the number of the saved. As such it is of great encouragement. Psalm 84, by the Sons of Korah was written for worship. Our faith is the highway that has been laid out in our heart to take us to Heaven.

EPISTLE LESSON—2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, 13-17

This lesson is a new addition to our reading cycle. Paul seems to have alarmed the Thessalonians with his first Epistle. He had to calm them down a little concerning the immanence of the return of Christ. Plus some of the people thought they had missed the Resurrection. Without stifling their faith, Paul explains the importance of standing firm, no matter how many years we may or may not have to the end of the world.

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 20:27-40

In the former three year cycle, this lesson was assigned to the Sunday represented by Proper 27, but, in the old cycle, we jumped over Propers to get to the last three Sundays (now depending on the date of Easter we leave off the first of the Propers.) It is entirely possible that before 2006 you had never heard a sermon on this pericope. The Sadducees