

make His accounting. 2. His scheme benefits others more than himself. 3. The steward figured out how to use his masters goods to both his benefit and the benefit of others. In this parable Jesus is commanding the shrewd use of God's resources both for our benefit and the benefit of others. We are allowed to use what God has given us for our needs, if we also use what we have been given by God to help others, even if they think it is our generosity. We get the glory and honor for giving to others, even though it all belongs to God. So forgive sins and make friends for the Gospel, through the goods and gifts given by God.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ O God our Father, You are the loving Creator of all things in Heaven and Earth. You are over all, the supreme and only Sovereign, Who is through all the ruling and sustaining power. You are in all as the Savior of death or life according to Your Holy judgment: We bow in prayer before You.

We are unable by our own reason or strength to walk worthily in faith. We are unable by our own honor to bear the name of Christ. We are unable by our own obedience to follow Your Command. We ask that You would pour out upon us Your Holy Spirit, that we may have those virtues which are pleasing in Your sight. For our stubbornness and self-will, bestow on us submission to Your will. For our pride and conceit, endow us with lowliness of mind. For our complaining and vengeful spirits, give us the spirit of meekness. For our resentment and anger, grant us patience. Help us by Your grace to bear in love with each others faults and infirmities, to serve one another in charity and kindness, and to bless those who may seek to harm us.

Look in mercy on Your church, O God, and grant that we may keep in peace and love the unity You gave us and for which our Lord prayed. Produce in all the members; an abiding sense of faith in Christ, repentance for sin, knowledge of Your doctrine, and an obedience to the revelation You have provided through Your Word.

Bless our nation that all our people may worship and serve You in spirit and in truth. Grant Your counsel and aid that we may be safe in our homes and work places through out this land.

Set Your healing powers to work in our sick and the afflicted. Hear their cry and remember them in Your mercy, upholding them by the comforting power of Your Spirit. Show Yourself as an ever-present help, the Savior of all who believe.

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

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, in Whose glorious name we offer these petitions.

© Amen.

## PROPER TWENTY

### Chant Tone



### Introit

Your testimonies are righteous  
for — ever,\*  
give me understanding that | I may  
live.  
  
Righteous are You, — O Lord,\*  
and right are Your | just decrees.  
You have appointed Your testimonies  
in | righteousness\*  
and in all | faithfulness.  
My zeal con — sumes me,\*  
because my foes for | get Your words.

Your promise is — well tried,\*  
and Your servant — loves it.

Your righteousness is righteous  
for — ever,\*  
and Your | law is true.

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.

Your testimonies are righteous  
for — ever,\*  
give me understanding that | I may  
live.

(Antiphon, Psalm 119:144;  
Psalm 119:137-140, 142)

### Collect of the Day

O Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through 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:** O Lord, our Light and Salvation, You are the Stronghold of our life. With You as our God, we face the world without fear. As the heavens are high above the Earth, so Your ways are higher than our ways and Your thoughts higher than our thoughts. Make us see how the least of our efforts are brought to great reward through Your labor, and make us bold to seek from You willingness to proclaim Your Love. Send us a full measure of Your Holy Spirit to help us see the opportunities to do Your work and according to Your Mercy, grant us success in our labors. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**GOD GIVES US ALL WE HAVE, WE ARE SIMPLY MANAGERS OF THESE THINGS.** We are given the status and title of manager so that we can help others—especially so that we can help others believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. On the day of Judgment we will be required to give an accounting of our management of God's goods. The dishonest manager had been cheating others, even though they had not known it. At the point of giving an accounting he suddenly made himself appear kind and generous, giving back what was not his to begin with. God gives to us so that we can give to others. He allows us to take the credit for what we have given as if it was ours in the first place, including that which we give Him. If we are generous with God's goods, we lose nothing, and gain the accolades of the people of the world. So give freely of what you have been given, especially give of your knowledge of salvation through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

#### **THEME OF THE DAY:**

Profitable to Salvation

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon, Psalm 119:144;) Psalm 119:137-140, 142  
Psalm 119 was probably written by David. Some think it was a lifetime work as there are 22 sections (one for each letter of the Hebrew Alphabet.) Today's reading is brought to us by the letter, "tsadhe." For David, anyone who did not have the same affection for the Word of God, was his enemy.

#### **COLLECT**

We want to be the people who do the things that will proclaim salvation to the world. We ask that we will not fail by being kept from hurtful things.

#### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**—Amos 8:4-7

The Northern kingdoms were doing very well. They were making alliances with their neighbors, they were growing and planting, they were trading and growing. Yet it would all be taken away. They would go off into dispersion never to be gathered again. They had forgotten God. They had turned away from the one true God and went about making the industry of their hands more important. God referred to their sinfulness with the message that they were cheating the widows and orphans. Although there may have been many who were using dishonest weights, that is likely a metaphor. By misusing the gifts God had given them, especially the gift of being His people, they were cheating the widows and orphans out of salvation by refusing to promote the will of God among the people.

#### **GRADUAL**—Psalm 34:9, 19 alternative

For a time David pretended to be insane. It allowed him to hide out in a foreign king's court while Saul was attempting to kill him. David realized that he was avoiding God's will and had wandered away. He turned from his acting and became bold again in his faith.

#### **EPISTLE LESSON**—1 Timothy 2:1-15

This lesson provides two reasons why we pray for all people especially those in power and authority. 1. God created all things, He created people, and He created government. 2. God's desire is that all people would be saved. Peace and quiet on a national and international level helps the people of God live out their salvation. So, among the proper use of our gifts, of our time, is time for corporate and personal prayer, in the name of and for the sake of Jesus Christ, Who is our mediator of the new covenant. Christ died for all people, we pray for all people.

#### **GOSPEL LESSON**—Luke 16:1-15

Biblical scholars are trouble by the statement, "The master commanded the dishonest steward." Why would God commend dishonesty? There are three things going on in this parable. 1. The steward is given time to