

foolish attempt to trap Him with a question, Jesus turned to the crowd and our Gospel Lesson began. It is interesting that Jesus states that the Pharisees and Scribes teach (most likely the Law) very well. However they do not, practice what they preach. As Paul also mentions, people tend to do things to be seen by others. Then Jesus launched into the importance of faith being an individual issue. We are saved by the depth of our faith, not from being the member of any particular group. Therefore there is One teacher to whom we should be dedicated and is Jesus, and we have One God to whom we are dedicated and He is our Father.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ O Almighty God, You say, through Your Beloved Son: Blessed are those who hear God's Word. O merciful and Eternal God, it would be better for us gladly to call You blessed and to praise and thank You for having made Yourself known to us sinners in such a friendly and Fatherly way. You speak to us of the greatest and highest things, which are Eternal Life and blessedness. You do not fail to call us graciously through Your Son to hear Your Word.

We are dust and ashes and stand in need of Your Word a thousand times more than we can hear. O how inexpressibly wonderful and great are Your goodness and patience. O how pitiful is the thanklessness and total blindness of those who not only fail to hear Your Word but also maliciously despise, persecute, and blaspheme it.

O God, the Father of all poor, forlorn souls, grant all of us Your grace and enlighten us with Your truth. Send us Your Holy Spirit, O Lord, that He may help us listen and hear the Words that lead to Eternal Life. Cause us to walk by faith in Your promises, and grant that others may be inclined to follow and so find in Jesus Christ the truth of Your Gospel, and keep the light of faith burning in our hearts.

We ask for all people everywhere: For those in authority we ask that they may have respect for Your Holy will; For all who do not know Jesus, that they would hear and believe the Gospel; for any who are in danger, that they would be preserved from harm. Let everyone everywhere live in Your heavenly peace.

We ask You to bless all who trust in the merits of Jesus Christ for salvation. Have mercy on all who call on Your name this day. Bless our charitable efforts that Christ's name would be glorified. Forgive us our trespasses, support the weak, correct the disobedient and grant Your healing for all illness.

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

May we realize Your presence among us as Your Love draws us ever closer to our heavenly home.

© Amen.

## PROPER TWENTY-SIX

### Chant Tone



### Introit

Praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is ex — alted,\*

His majesty is above Earth and — Heaven.

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a — new song,\*

His praise in the assembly of the — godly!

Let Israel be glad in his — maker;\* let the children of Zion rejoice | in their king!

Let them praise His name with — dancing,\* making melody to Him with tambou | rine and lyre!

For the Lord takes pleasure in His — people;\*

He adorns the humble with sal — vation.

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.

Praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is ex — alted,\* His majesty is above Earth and — Heaven.

(Antiphon, Psalm 148:13; Psalm 149:1-4)

### Collect of the Day

Merciful and gracious Lord, You cause Your Word to be proclaimed in every generation. Stir up our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may receive this proclamation with humility and finally be exalted at the coming of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, 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. Blessed are those whose strength is — in You,\* in whose heart are the highways to — Zion.

(Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5)

**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** O Eternal God, You have given to Your Church many precious gifts, brought us into Your kingdom by the "Means of Grace," and blessed our work through the power of the Holy Spirit. We thank You for the opportunities to serve as helpers in Jesus Christ. May we serve You with a humble and quiet spirit, that our labors may be blessed to the glory of Your name. May we never grow weary in doing well, but continue to treasure every opportunity to be kind to the poor, hospitable to Your saints, and generous in our giving, until that great day when our worship and service will be done before Your eternal throne. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

#### **TODAY IS A TRANSITION DAY IN OUR CHURCH CALENDAR.**

We are wrapping up the general lessons from the non-festival half of the church year, and getting ready for our end-times lessons for the final three Sundays and into Advent. The truth is that we are always end time Christians because Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies concerning the end of the world. Now we are simply living out the end times waiting for Jesus to return. The best news is that God is patiently waiting for the end. In that way, all of those whom He has chosen for salvation will be born and received through the water and Word of Baptism.

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

Quietly Doing Good Works

#### **INTROIT**—(Antiphon, Psalm 148:13;) Psalm 149:1-4

This is the only use of Psalm 148 in an Introit it was likely written by David and speaks of God the Creator. Psalm 149 was written by David when Jerusalem was taken and established as the City of God, it speaks of God as redeemer. We sing the new song of salvation in Jesus.

#### **COLLECT**

In our prayer we ask to be, "stirred up," that is emotionally aroused to live our lives in holiness, here, that our bodies would be the place (the new Temple,) where our Christ will dwell.

#### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**—Micah 3:5-12

The Holy Spirit inspired the Old Testament prophets to record promises of a Savior. False prophets popped up because they were compensated for agreeing with the kings or the people. God presents their lies, (which continue to be the lies of false prophets today.) Micah was allowed to restate his authority as a prophet, and to put out a warning against the faithlessness of the people. In the case of the Jerusalem, God gave the prophecy in verse 12, which was fulfilled twice, once in the time of Jeremiah and then the final destruction in AD 70.

#### **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**—1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

It is possible to speak of sin as a category and to speak of specific sins. Paul does both in this section. In the first 4 chapters he was speaking to everyone in the final two chapters he was speaking to the leaders. In the first, "sexual immorality," includes being in control of your own mind. The world likes to speak in terms of victims. Sin is okay as long as it doesn't involve anyone else. Paul was saying that lust in your mind is hurting your sanctification. He went on to "brotherly love." Often people do good to others so that it will be noticed. Paul told us to do our good works quietly, keep it to yourself, and live from the work of your own hands.

#### **GOSPEL LESSON**—Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus had just finished dealing with Pharisees when they heard that He embarrassed the Sadducees. After dismissing the Pharisees and their