

Trinity. In 2006, we in the LCMS put it back into the reading schedule (from Luke 8.) Jesus was among the Gentiles when He came upon a man who was possessed by a legion of demons. Jesus commanded the demons out of the man. These evil angels were afraid of being bound in hell, so, after insulting Jesus (I suppose it must be difficult for evil angels to prevent themselves from doing evil and foolish things,) they beg Him to let them enter the pigs. The pigs reacted in the manner we should when confronted by evil, they fled (resulting in their death.) Sadly, the locals were afraid of what they witnessed rather than declaring the wonder of Jesus (in His power over sin,) they asked Him to leave them alone.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑩ O Lord of all power and grace, we bless You for Your eyes are on the righteous and Your ears are open to their cry. Hear the prayer of Your people as we come to You now in thankfulness for the mercies which You pour down on us anew each day.

We thank You for Your gifts of might, providence and the daily and manifold miracle of supplying the needs of all creatures, great and small. You open Your hand and give us what we need, in season and out of season. Make us mindful, O Lord, that You are the source of our daily bread, even as You provide us with life, breath and being.

Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we will produce the fruits of righteousness. May He endow us with unwavering faith, so that we are always ready to do Your will. Multiply grace, peace and all spiritual knowledge in Your Church. Raise up a ministry that will seek souls for salvation, willing to forsake all selfish concerns and follow Your Son wherever He leads. Give unity of heart and spirit to Your people, O God. Grant that they may inherit Your blessing and not come under Your judgment. Let them manifest the Spirit of Christ in all things. Defend and preserve Your servants wherever they may be suffering for Your name's sake, and replenish them in faith, strength and courage by the grace of Your Son.

Hear, O Lord, when we cry unto You for the afflicted. Grant them help in body and soul, and save them for Your mercy's sake. Lead all the sick and suffering in body, mind and spirit to pray always with faith and perseverance. As we are but pilgrims in this world, guide and uphold us, and bring us all in due time to our heavenly home.

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

Receive now these petitions in the name of the Prince of Life, the One Who has taught us to obey, even Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

© Amen.

PROPER SEVEN

Chant Tone



Introit

Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may contin—ually come;*

You have given the command to save me, for You are my rock and my —fortress.

You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive | me again;*

from the depths of the Earth You will bring me | up again.

You will increase my —greatness* and comfort | me again.

I will also praise You with the harp for Your faithfulness, | O my God;*

I will sing praises to You with the lyre, O Holy One of —Israel.

My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to You;*

my soul also, which You | have redeemed.

And my tongue will talk of Your righteous help all | the day long,*

for they have been put to shame and disappointed who sought to | do me hurt.

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.

Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may contin—ually come;*

You have given the command to save me, for You are my rock and my —fortress.

(Antiphon, Psalm 71:3;
Psalm 71:20-4)

Collect of the Day

O God, You have prepared for those who love You such good things as surpass our understanding. Cast out all sins and evil desires from us, and pour into our hearts Your Holy Spirit to guide us into all blessedness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

The word is near you, in your mouth and | in your heart,*
that is the word of faith that | we proclaim.

For with the heart one believes and is |justified,*
and with the mouth one confesses | and is saved.

(Romans 10:8b, 10)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Lord God, heavenly Father, by Your grace we greet another day. For Your protection during the night, we give You thanks. For giving us the health and strength to come before You in the congregation of Your redeemed, we praise Your Holy name. Send us Your Holy Spirit to teach us to bear with patience our own and others' infirmities. Keep us diligent in prayer, and open our eyes to see Your answers. May Your almighty power be the strength for our weakness, may the leaders of our nation serve only You. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

IN 1775 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CONVINCED THOMAS PAINE TO COME TO AMERICA. Franklin recognized that the independence movement needed someone who could express the philosophy of independence to people who still might feel ties to the mother country. Paine together with the diplomatic skill of Franklin and the military skill of Washington made for an unbeatable combination. God has come to live in us. He has come enlisting the power of the Holy Spirit and in the Cross of Jesus Christ to make an unbeatable combination against sin in the world. God defeated sin, threw off Satan to establish us as a new people a federation known as Christians. We are a people who cross boundaries and borders for Heaven is our home.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Jesus Is God

INTROIT—(Antiphon, Psalm 71:3;) Psalm 71:20-24

Psalm 71 is an (LCMS) addition to our latest reading cycle. David wrote this in his later years, during a time of trouble. (There is much speculation concerning whom was causing the trouble, but there are no definitive answers.) David's confidence in his deliverance by the promise and hand of God is evident. His expectations, his thanksgiving, his joy, was established by his faith in God.

COLLECT

We ask God, because of His love, to grant us a blessed life by ridding us of our sin and evil desires.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 65:1-9

Historically this lesson was read on the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity. We dropped it from the first cycle of readings and have brought it back in the latest change. The last two chapters of Isaiah look to the fulfillment of salvation and the wonder of the "new Earth," which would be found in the Messiah. Our reading for today, is the set-up, our introduction to the end times. God proclaimed that the Gentiles (those who, "did not ask for Me,") would be brought to Him. They enter in the same manner as the chosen ones, some to be punished for their sin and some to be rewarded for their faith.

GRADUAL—Romans 10:8b, 10

Today is the last use of this newly crafted Gradual. The Word which has been placed in our hearts through the work of the Holy Spirit. The confession of our mouth is the truth of salvation.

EPISTLE LESSON—Galatians 3:23–4:7

Paul was reminding the Galatians that they were once under the Law, which made them prisoners. Now through Baptism, they are justified by faith. Paul was having difficulties with the Galatians. They did not seem to understand Law and Gospel. They were struggling with their approach to God. They wanted to know the importance of the Law. They weren't quite sure what Jesus had done. Paul explained how the law holds us prisoner, but the law is our cross to bear because it also brings us to Christ. The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God; Law and Gospel. The Holy Spirit comes to us in the water and Word of our Baptism to put us in Christ and establish us as heirs of the promise of God.

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 8:26-39

Before 1941 the account of the Gerasene demons being sent into the pigs, was read (from Matthew 8:28-34,) on the Nineteenth Sunday After