

went to the synagogue on the Sabbath. The reaction of the listeners was amazement, but showed a lack of faith. They took offense at Jesus and His message. They were guilty of unbelief. The people rejected Jesus, because they had known Him before His revelation as the Son of God. Their unbelief, caused Jesus to marvel, but He did not miss a beat. He continued to travel and teach throughout the region, doing His work of healing and preaching in the face of the weakness of their unbelief. God remains strong even when we are weak.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑨ 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 assemble before You in the congregation of Your redeemed, we praise Your Holy name. For refreshing us at the fountain of Your Word and Sacrament, we rejoice.

We confess that we have been a rebellious and stubborn people. We have been more concerned about Your messengers than about Your message. We have listened to Your Word but have failed to apply it to our daily lives. We have complained about our weaknesses and failed to lean on Your strength. We have been impatient under trials, forgetting that through them You strengthen our faith. We have transgressed against Your Laws, knowing that You expect us to keep them. For our sins against ourselves, against others and against You, forgive us O Lord, for the sake of Jesus our Savior.

Send us Your Holy Spirit to teach us to bear with patience our infirmities. Keep us diligent in prayer, and open our eyes to see Your answers. May Your Almighty power be the strength of our weaknesses. Help us believe that through our faith in Your Son we can overcome all our problems. Grant a special measure of Your Holy Spirit to Your Church that its members may be lights that shine brightly in a world of confusion and weakness.

Bless all who stand in some special need of Your mighty aid. Especially we ask for our sick and all who may be in anguish of body or soul. Grant them the healing knowledge of Your Love, and show them that You have prepared such great things for those who believe in You that the suffering of the present time are as nothing.

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

All this, we pray, in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, trusting that through Him we will be heard.

© Amen.

PROPER NINE

Chant Tone



Introit

Oh, taste and see that the | Lord is good!*
Blessèd is the man who takes ref | uge
in Him!

For the Lord has chosen — Zion,*
He has desired it for His | dwelling
place:

"This is My resting place for — ever;*
here I will dwell, for I have de — sired it.
I will abundantly bless her pro — visions;*
I will satisfy her | poor with bread.

Her priests I will clothe with sal — vation,*
and her saints will | shout for joy."

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.

Oh, taste and see that the | Lord is good!*
Blessèd is the man who takes ref | uge
in him!

(Antiphon, Psalm 34:8;
Psalm 132:13-16)

Collect of the Day

O God, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy. Grant us the fullness of Your grace that we may be called to repentance and made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and know | ledge of God!*
How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscruta | ble His ways!
For from Him and through Him and to Him | are all things.*
To Him be glory forever. — Amen.

(Romans 11:33, 36)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: We thank You, O Father, that we have a sure word of truth in the Holy Scriptures where You have given us the testimony of the Prophets and Apostles. Grant that by Your grace their God may be our God, their love of divine truth our love and their fellowship with Your people, our fellowship. Most especially we thank You for the voice and witness of Your Son Jesus Christ our Savior. Help us in our day, to show forth our Christian values in every place You send us and preserve us to Your Eternal kingdom. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

56 MEN SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE:

Five were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes burned to the ground. Two lost sons serving in the Revolutionary Army, and two more had sons captured. Nine fought and died in the Revolutionary War. They were well educated, smart enough to know that by signing the Declaration of Independence, they were signing their own death warrants. They signed it, because they believed. Jesus was confronted by a lack of faith in His person and identity. Lack of faith in Jesus doesn't impact God. Your faith makes the message of Jesus real and purposeful in your life.

THEME OF THE DAY:

We Are Weak but He Is Strong

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 34:8;) Psalm 132:13-16

Psalm 34 was written by David when he stopped acting afraid and went to take the kingdom from Saul. Psalm 132 was (probably) written by Solomon at the dedication of the temple. Open your Bible and read the first verses as they mention, David, by name. In combination these Psalms speak of a place that is our home; Heaven.

COLLECT

We don't deserve anything from God but punishment and derision. Yet the chief thing we have been granted by God is mercy, especially in the fact that He sent His only begotten Son to be our Savior, and in Him we have gained heavenly treasures.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Ezekiel 2:1-5

God took Ezekiel, (a priest who was in exile and away from the temple,) and commissioned him for service. It is more than coincidence that this happened in the 30th year when Ezekiel would have entered the Levitical priesthood. He was commissioned to serve in a new way in a foreign land. In exile (because of their weakness) the people should have been rejected by God, but God (in His strength) continued to stand with them for their life and faith, even while He knew they would reject the message. He stood with them for the sake of the elect.

GRADUAL—Romans 11:33, 36

In Romans 11, Paul lamented the fact that the Jews reject Jesus and therefore salvation. These two verses sing praise to God that even in the face of all the unbelief on the part of the chosen people, we (the "not" chosen people,) were chosen to believe.

EPISTLE LESSON—2 Corinthians 12:1-10

If anyone was entitled to ask why bad things happen to good people, it could have been Paul. Paul had a special claim on God. He had one goal and one purpose in life, and that was to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He also had to face the reality of a thorn-in-the-flesh, a physical affliction which not only hindered him, but hindered his goal. It interfered with the preaching of the Gospel. Paul was willing to leave this matter in the hands the Lord. God's grace he knew was sufficient for him. He was at peace and willing to bear the trials for the benefit of others.

GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 6:1-13

What we read, here, comes after a time in which Jesus enjoyed a number of successes. People were delighted by His presence. Then Jesus returned to His hometown. His disciples followed Him. While there He