

Luke said Jesus came, "...down with them and stood on a level place." Matthew 5 is read on Epiphany 4, so again, this lesson has been moved for a purpose. There is a difference between weakness (meekness) and forgiveness. Jesus was neither weak nor meek, but He was clearly forgiving. There are times when Jesus speaks that we should hear Him as speaking of Himself and God the Father. It is useful especially when the world has run us over. Jesus was strong in the presentation of the Gospel and forgiving in His application of the Gospel. Jesus suffered in a manner we hardly comprehend. The perfect man took up our sin that He would be punished in our place. So be it Lord.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

℟ Blessed are You, O Lord, and blessed is Your Holy name. You forgive all our iniquities and heal our diseases. You redeem us from destruction and crown us with steadfast Love and mercy. You renew our youth like the eagle's by satisfying us with good things. You do not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our sins. Accept, O Lord, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

We confess that our lives have not always been letters of recommendation. We have often been guilty of trying to keep the letter of the Law, while forgetting its spirit. As the example of Christ to a world lost in religious confusion, our testimony leaves much to be desired. We have often attempted to mend the flaws in our lives with patches of our own good works. For our failure to live up to Your expectations, forgive us, O Lord.

Visit us with Your Holy Spirit, and change our hearts to love You more completely. Help us rejoice in Your mercy as revealed to us by Your Son Jesus Christ. Grant us serenity in the midst of trials and afflictions. Give us power to be worthy examples of Your Love in a loveless world. Permeate the councils of nations and of our own nation with Your Spirit of justice, mercy, and forgiveness.

Through Your beloved Son Jesus Christ, You have revealed Your Word in the flesh. Send us Your Holy Spirit that we may hear Him speaking to us in Your Word. Give us the courage to hold high the light of Your Word to those who sit in darkness, and bless it in the hearts of those who hear it.

Extend Your healing hand to the sick, Your presence to the lonely, and Your assurance of everlasting life to the bereaved.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**) In the most Holy name of Jesus we pray.

© Amen.

PROPER THREE

Chant Tone



Introit

Who is the man who | fears the Lord?*
him will He instruct in the way that
| he should choose.

Good and upright | is the Lord;*
therefore He instructs sinners | in
the way.

He leads the humble in | what is right,*
and teaches the humble — His way.
All the paths of the Lord are steadfast
love and | faithfulness,*
for those who keep His covenant
and His testi — monies.

For Your name's sake, — O Lord,*
pardon my guilt, for | it is great.

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.

Who is the man who | fears the Lord?*
him will He instruct in the way that
| he should choose.

(Antiphon, Psalm 25:12;
Psalm 25:8-11)

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, in Your mercy so guide the course of this world that we may forgive as we have been forgiven and joyfully serve You in godly peace and quietness; 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, You know what I am. Give me the courage to face the truth about myself. Keep me from pride and deceit. Do not permit me to make my life counterfeit or to hide behind some cheap pretense. In the crucified Christ let me see the depth of my sin, the grossness of my selfishness, and the judgment of death I deserve. In the risen Christ let me see the new life You have given me by Your grace, experiencing the deliverance from my old self and the freedom to live for You. With the mind of Christ ruling me, let me be honest with You, with myself, and with all people. In the exalted name of Christ I pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THIS SUNDAY OF PROPER THREE CAME INTO EXISTENCE IN 2006. Our new three year cycle of readings has located the lessons to the weeks of the year, and for that reason we ended up with an extra Sunday at the beginning. So... those who put together the lessons looked backward and gave us lessons we rarely hear. Our Old Testament and Gospel Lessons are from Epiphany Eight. Because of the manner in which the date for Easter moves, Epiphany Eight and Proper Three can not exist in the same Church Year. These lessons (especially the Gospel Lesson telling us to lean on Jesus and not on our anxiety) are important for us to hear, especially when the troubles come into our life. We welcome everyone to worship today. We have all tossed aside our cares and anxiety to come and worship our creator, redeemer and sanctifier, the God of our today and the God of our blessed tomorrow eternally in Heaven.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Beginning In Forgiveness

INTROIT—(Antiphon, Psalm 25:12;) Psalm 25:8-11

Because Proper Three came into existence with the 2006 revision to the liturgy, the Propers have been gathered from various places. In this case, the church has used this Psalm on Lent Two from our historic beginning. Psalm 25 was written by David. It is considered to be a Psalm of faith. We are using it today to establish a beginning.

COLLECT

This collect is new to our liturgy and was specifically written for today. It connects to our Old Testament Lesson. Forgiveness is how we have our beginning with God. He established our forgiveness in the person and the work of Jesus, Who took up our sins and made us pure and righteous before the Father.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Genesis 50:15-21

When their father died, Joseph's brothers were wondering if he was going to punish them (for having sold him into slavery.) Joseph assured his brothers with the comforting words that they didn't need to worry. He would not judge them, he had already forgiven them. Joseph framed everything in the perspective of God's sovereignty. Joseph had accepted the will of God for his life, and was willing to allow the grace and mercy of God to guide him in forgiving his brothers. Joseph lived in God's grace and was simply extending that grace to those who sinned against him.

GRADUAL—Romans 10:8b, 10

In the first change to a three year cycle, the Graduals were established to change with the festival or every few weeks during the Sundays after Pentecost. The historic church used a different Gradual connected to the theme of each Sunday. In 2006, we modified the order of the Graduals, and added a pair of new Graduals. Today we have add the second part of verse 8 to the second half of the Gradual for Pentecost (verse 10,) and we comment on the work of the Holy Spirit. He put the Word in our heart and head and made it possible for us to proclaim our faith.

EPISTLE LESSON—Acts 2:14a, 36-47

We added this lesson as a continuation from Trinity's reading. Peter quoted Psalm 16. Peter quoted it as a direct prophecy of the death and Resurrection of Jesus, and proof of His status as God; One with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 6:20-42

The are very similar Words to those spoken by Jesus in the, "Sermon on the Mount." (Matthew 5) This may in fact be the same event, although