

In 2006 we moved it to Proper 4 (which likely means this is the year 2032 as that is the next time we will use Proper 4.) We have engaged to read at least three of the Parables of Jesus today. They can all fit nicely under the theme of, "faith," and yet they are each one unique in their presentation. I personally can't tell one tree from another unless it is showing its fruit. We can tell Christians from non-Christians by the way they act. Therefore, being able to quote the name of Jesus to entertain the crowds but having no faith will still exclude you from Heaven. Lastly, don't be stupid about your faith. Actually be sincere with what you claim. Be in a place where you base your faith on the Word of God (not on society or tradition) and you will find your house build on the Rock of Ages; Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑩ O Lord God, King Eternal, of whom, through whom, and in whom are all things, You are the ruler of both Heaven and Earth. We are in awe that in the Trinity of Your Godhead You are One God, One Lord, One Sovereign. You uphold all things by the power of Your Word. Hear us as we bring our praise and admiration.

We give You our most heartfelt thanks for the multitude of Your mercies which You have so graciously showered upon us. Grant that we may ever be mindful of the magnificence of Your gifts and the vast ocean of Your Love and kindness.

For this world; for the seasons; for the resources of the Earth and the abundance of the sea; for love and friendship, home and family, land and government; for our body and mind; for strength and growth; for skills and senses; for reason and intelligence, for imagination, memory and reflection; for health and healing; for all these, O God, we give You our thanks and praise.

Most of all, we thank You for Your great Love and for the priceless gifts which You have given in Jesus Christ, Your only-begotten Son, Whom You sent for our salvation. For the forgiveness of our sins through Him, for our deliverance by His power from the dominion of death and the devil, and for the promise of life everlasting, we thank You.

We ask You, O Loving Father, for Your mercy and grace upon all who face adversity or trial. Be the Health of the sick, the joy of the sorrowing, the youth of the aged, the companion of the lonely, and the compassion of those who mourn.

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

Grant these petitions, O Lord, and all those petitions that You find in the depths of our hearts, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

© Amen.

PROPER FOUR

Chant Tone



Introit

How great are Your works, —O Lord!*
Your thoughts are | very deep!

The righteous flourish like the — palm tree*
and grow like a cedar in | Lebanon.
They are planted in the house | of the Lord;*
they flourish in the courts | of our God.
They still bear fruit in — old age;*
they are ever full of | sap and green,

to declare that the Lord is —upright;*
He is my rock, and there is no
unrighteousness — in Him.

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.

How great are Your works, —O Lord!*

Your thoughts are | very deep!

(Antiphon, Psalm 92:5;
Psalm 92:12-15)

Collect of the Day

Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, instill in our hearts the love of Your name, impress on our minds the teachings of Your Word, and increase in our lives all that is holy and just; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Great is the Lord, and greatly | to be praised,*
and his greatness is un | searchable.
on your wondrous works, I will | meditate.*
and I will declare Your —greatness.

(Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, hear us as we confess our need for a more holy faith. We believe in your omnipotence, and in Your grace, but too often we approach You with bold commands, instead of with the confidence that You know what is best in every situation. Our humility is often undone by our being convinced that we deserve Your blessings. Forgive us for our spiritual immaturity. Grant us the faith to trust completely in Your Divine authority and accept our worship this day, as testimony to the faith we have in the Lordship of Christ in our life. This we ask in the name above every other name. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

WE WELCOME TO WORSHIP ALL WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED OUT BY THE POWER OF OUR FATHER, THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. We have entered the non-festival half of the Church Year when we listen to the general lessons of life and faith which Jesus taught to His disciples. These lessons were important to the faith and life of the disciples who walked with Jesus so many years ago. These lessons are as important for we who walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Today we hear of our foundation. Any building needs a firm foundation or it will fail. Our life needs the firm foundation of faith in Jesus, or else our faith will fail.

THEME OF THE DAY:

The Foundation of Faith

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 92:5;) Psalm 92:12-15

Psalm 92 was written by David to be used on the Sabbath. Here we celebrate God's works which are proclaimed to be unsearchable and unchangeable. We praise God on this Holy Day, for His unchanging faithfulness, which gives us our salvation.

COLLECT

This is a rewrite of the historical prayer. The prayers in the non-festival half of the church year are somewhat generic, and this one follows that model. We entreat our all powerful God to make us better people through His work and Word. This prayer echoes the Old Testament Lesson in that we especially ask that our hearts and minds would be set on things holy and just.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28

The book of Deuteronomy is the second giving of the law. We have taken Moses' encouragement statements for our lesson. It is equally true for us. Keep the Word of God in our heart and soul and teach them to our children. The blessing and curse motif is actually true of all of God's commandments. Each comes with a blessing (i.e. There is only one God so we do not have to be concerned that we aren't giving honor to the gods equally,) and a curse (i.e. There is only one God so if we don't worship Him alone we are condemned.)

GRADUAL—Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b

Psalm 145 is titled, "David's Psalm of Praise." (The last 5 Psalms are all hymns of praise.) In this Psalm, David, concentrated on the Greatness of God and the proofs of the administration of His kingdom as that which we are to praise. In our case, this means that we meditate on the grace and mercy of God that allows us to be His Disciples.

EPISTLE LESSON—Romans 3:21-28

Romans chapter 3 continues the discussion of Justification. Paul proved that we are far short of being able to declare ourselves worthy of Heaven. He is especially giving voice to our being Justified through faith in Jesus Christ. (We don't read the end of the chapter, but you should. Any argument that says we can ignore the law of God is destroyed in the words that say we, "establish," "uphold," or "strengthen" the law.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 7:15-29

This Pericope is the historic lesson for Trinity Eight. It has been read in the church for almost as long as the book of Matthew has been available. We moved it to (Pentecost Two) the first Sunday after Trinity in 1969.