

them back from sin, death and Satan. There is an interesting twist in both of the parables, because it is clear that sin, death and even Satan do not recognize our worth. God created us from His Love. God's Love for His creation didn't end with our failure to maintain our righteousness. Sin, death and Satan do not comprehend that value, so they were unprepared for the price God was willing to pay for our life. He was willing to pay the ultimate price, that of His Only Begotten Son, to ensure the victory for righteousness. God exchanged the life of His Son, to purchase our very soul. The last parable is about the sorting. Not everyone is a part of the victory for righteousness. It is only by the grace of God that we join Jesus in the victory.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ Almighty and everlasting God, You search all hearts and know all thoughts. We know that Your eyes are in every place, seeing the evil and the good. Grant us, as we approach the throne of Your grace, true humility and penitence. We ask You not to remember our sins. According to Your mercy, and for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Only-Begotten Son, hear us as we bring our prayers to You.

We thank You for all of Your benefits given to us. Help us use everything You have given in a faithful manner as good stewards of Your gifts ever acknowledging the wonder and wisdom of Your will.

Grant us a true understanding of Your Word, so that we are guided in all judgments by Your truth, and always kept in the Word that leads to eternal life. Enable us to learn by the examples in the Holy Scripture, both the good and the bad, that we are able to do the things we should and avoid the things that are evil to Your way.

Keep our country in Your care, that honor and honesty, truth and integrity, may be upheld. We especially ask You to look on all who bear responsibility in our government. Endow them with wisdom to govern in Your will.

We pray this day for all who are sick and injured in body, mind or spirit, for all who are in danger of body or soul, for all who are in the midst of anxiety or perplexity, for all who are suffering disappointment or defeat. Be with them in their affliction, show them the way out of their troubles, and save them for we know that You are a gracious and forgiving God Who Loves and cares for Your children.

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

Mercifully grant these and all other acceptable petitions which we bring in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

© Amen.

PROPER TWELVE

Chant Tone



Introit

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call up | on
His name;*
make known His deeds among the
—peoples!
Sing to Him, sing prai | ses to Him;*
tell of all His | wondrous works!
Glory in His | holy name;*
let the hearts of those who seek the
| Lord rejoice!
Seek the Lord | and His strength;*
seek His presence con | tinually!

Remember the wondrous works that | He
has done,*

His miracles, and the judgments He
—uttered,

O offspring of Abraham, His —servant,*
children of Jacob, His | chosen ones!

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 give thanks to the Lord; call up | on
His name;*
make known His deeds among the
—peoples!

(Antiphon , Psalm 105:1;
Psalm 105:2-6)

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 give thanks to You, O Lord, with our whole heart. You have answered our prayers and delivered us from the trouble of our life. We are personal witnesses to the fact that Your steadfast Love endures forever. Empower us with a full measure of Your Holy Spirit. Strengthen our faith in Your will. Help us pray with meaning, trusting that we have been redeemed through Christ. Bless our leadership in this church with wisdom, understanding and in dedicated service to You and our fellow believers. Keep us in Your kingdom allowing us to see the new and the old as we live with You forever and ever. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

IT IS TAUGHT THAT GENERAL GEORGE G. MEADE'S INDECISIVE NATURE PROLONGED THE CIVIL WAR BY TWO YEARS. He was Abraham Lincoln's fifth choice for commander of the Union Armies. He didn't pursue Lee after the defeat at Gettysburg. Lincoln and historians believe that act prolonged the war. In his defense, he didn't want the job, but four others had refused. Jesus willed Himself into our human flesh to become our Savior. He looked on us as a "pearl of great price," as a "treasure hidden in a field," and He gave up everything to purchase us from sin, death and Satan. General Meade was promoted two days before Lee attacked Gettysburg. He was unprepared. When one of his commanders disobeyed a direct order an entire infantry regiment were killed. Meade's skill and ability to out think Lee, is the only reason he won the battle. As God, Jesus is able to out think evil. He defeated sin, death and Satan and, as it was done in our flesh, He made us acceptable to God. Now we wait for Him to come and claim us to eternity.

THEME OF THE DAY:

The Great Value of Christians

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 105:1;) Psalm 105:2-6

We are using the preface to a very long Psalm. Psalm 105 was probably written by David and connects to 1 Chronicles 16. It was written when the Ark was moved to its permanent place in the Temple. We are reminded that God fulfilled all of His promises including sending our Savior in our flesh to win the victory for righteousness.

COLLECT

This is one of the times when the 2006 change is actually a return to the historic Collect of the Day. We need always to pray for an increase of faith, expectation and love. We are weak because of sin. We are afraid of the Word of God in our sin. The increase will allow us to love what God has commanded and increase our willingness to follow Jesus.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Deuteronomy 7:6-9

This section of Deuteronomy concerns our election by God. The "Chosen people" were called to keep God's Commands in general, and specifically to keep them from making idols and worshiping them. They were further being commanded to break all contact with the nations surrounding them during the 40 years in the wilderness and to depend on God for their subsistence. These verses declare the great Love of God toward those He has chosen which indicates their value (as presented in the Gospel.)

GRADUAL—Romans 11:33, 36

In Romans 11, Paul lamented the fact that the Jews rejected Jesus and therefore salvation. These verses sing praise to God for even in our unbelief, we were chosen in His grace to believe in the victory for righteousness won by our Savior.

EPISTLE LESSON—Romans 8:28-39

God makes us one with His Son though our flesh. We cannot be made over as God, for the image of God is beyond creation. So, God poured Himself into our flesh and we are made one with Him. It is an act of being lifting up. Jesus led a perfect life. He won the victory for righteousness as an act of His free will. The elect by God have therefore been lifted out of their sin and set on the higher place of the Son of God, being made one with Him in His victory. We have become glorified in that victory just as if we had accomplished the work ourselves. This was done in the grace (undeserved Love) of God.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 13:44-52

Parable overload warning! The first two parables are simple. God has determined that the elect are worth whatever price He had to pay to buy