

6AM, Jesus came to the Apostles by walking on the water. Peter asked for the ability to come to Jesus, but along the way, Peter's fear overwhelmed him and he failed. He cried out and Jesus saved him (again.) Jesus reminded Peter that the "sinking feeling" extended to Peter's sinking faith. Jesus lifts us up from our doubts and fears. He calls us out of the world to come to Him. With Jesus we are able to face all the storms of our life, the doubts and the fears, and (as the collect asks) find them conquered in the merits and mediation of Jesus.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ Lord God, Your mercy and truth belong to those who keep Your commands and the testimonies of Your Word. Set Your secret in the hearts of those Whom You Love, incline Your ear to us and hear our prayer, not for our righteousness nor in our name, but because You have caused us to carry the name which is above every other name, even Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, in Him is life even life eternal with You.

We praise You for the glorious Gospel of Your grace, where according to all Your faithful promises, You sent Your Son, in the fullness of time, Who died for our sins and rose again on the third day. We rejoice with unspeakable joy and in the fullness of our glory, for He is the beginning, middle and end of our faith, the source of our salvation.

Bestow the Holy Spirit on Your Church, O Lord, that we may go forth into all the world bearing Your precious Gospel and preaching Jesus Christ among all nations for the remission of sins and the assurance of eternal Life. Save Your Church from those who work for evil and those who pervert the truth, that we may know no other Gospel than that for which we were delivered.

We pray that those who work against Your truth, would be turned by the blessed Gospel and come to Jesus Christ as the only Way, the only Truth and the only Life.

Hear the prayers of all the afflicted, the sorrowful and those who mourn, the needy and the homeless, the wounded and all in pain, the anxious and the despairing, and lead them by Your mercy to a happy issue out of all their adversities. Deliver us, O God, from every evil, of body or soul, property or character, and at the end, when our last hour in this life comes, grant us a happy end and take us from this world of sorrow to that wonderful life with You in Heaven.

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

All this for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, in Whose Holy name we pray.

© Amen.

PROPER FOURTEEN

Chant Tone



Introit

I will bless the Lord | at all times;*
His praise shall continually be | in
my mouth.

I sought the Lord, and He | answered me*
and delivered me from | all my fears.
Those who look to Him are | radiant,*
and their faces shall never | be
ashamed.
This poor man cried, and the Lord
— heard him*
and saved him out of all his — troubles.

The angel of the Lord encamps around
those who — fear Him,*
and de | livers them.

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

I will bless the Lord | at all times;
His praise shall continually be | in
my mouth.

(Antiphon, Psalm 34:1;
Psalm 34:4-8)

Collect of the Day

Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what You want done; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Oh, fear the Lord, | you His saints,*
for those who fear Him | have no lack!
Many are the afflictions of the — righteous,*
but the Lord delivers him out | of them all.

(Psalm 34:9, 19 alternative)

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 to 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 and may our church be a light the world can use to find the Way. In the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

OUR WORLD WAS SO ENTIRELY DIFFERENT BEFORE OUR FALL INTO SIN. Many of the things Jesus did in His life on Earth were things that we have now been given to do in our flesh. It clearly appears that when God gave us dominion over nature (Genesis 1:26), He meant us to be in control of our environment, to the point that we should be able to walk on water. We have fallen so far from our creation! Now, instead of being in control of our environment we are being controlled by the world around us. We not only can't walk on water, we spend much of our time afraid of the water; afraid of fire, afraid of rain, afraid of the heat and afraid of the cold. Jesus displayed Himself as "God with us," by taking control of His environment. Jesus commanded nature and it obeyed Him. He calms our fear in the knowledge and wonder of His power, which has been imputed to us as salvation.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Fearless Faith

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 34:1;) Psalm 34:4-8

For a time, David pretended to be crazy. He was afraid of King Saul. Psalm 34 was written when he stopped pretending to be insane and he was thrown out of hiding. David remembered to take refuge in God and stopped depending on himself for deliverance. He came to recognize the power of God. For a time David forgot that God is in control, but when He remembered he was given the ability to come to God's blessing and was granted fearless faith, faith that made him cry out in song.

COLLECT

We ask to be ready (in soul and body) to accomplish the will of God in the world. It is a noble prayer, if we mean it sincerely.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Job 38:4-18

After all the words of debate, God will have the final word. We are utterly incapable of comprehending the works of God. We see events happen in the world, and we have no idea how that event will relate to tomorrow or 10 years or 1000 years from now. Yet with our lack of comprehension we are comprehended by God, Who ensures that we are able to hear the voice of Jesus and come to Him for salvation and eternal life.

GRADUAL—Psalm 34:9, 19 alternative

Psalm 34 is discussed in general in the Introit. We will specifically use verses 9 and 19 for the next seven weeks to bring us back to our fearless faith which comes to us in the power of Jesus. The use of the word, "fear," in the verse 9 is the Old English usage which means, "love and respect."

EPISTLE LESSON—Romans 10:5-17

There are two major ideas in our lesson. First there is a huge difference between righteousness under the law and righteousness obtained through the Gospel. Second there is no difference of faith between any race or nation. All in all it means that God demands one thing to be considered worthy of Heaven, full righteousness born from our hearts. Under the law that would mean keeping all the Law of God no matter how small or subtle (something we will never obtain) or being made righteous by the work and the person of Jesus, who kept the whole Law of God in faithfulness and has given us His faithfulness as our faith. If righteousness comes through works, we should be afraid of God. But righteousness comes through the free gift, just so that we come to Jesus in faith.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 14:22-33

The Sea of Galilee is about 5 miles wide (where the disciples were crossing.) A storm had turned a 3 hour trip into an all night ordeal. Between 3 and