

and the Holy Spirit. The cost of faith can at times be very great. A few weeks ago we read that our faith can cause division between father and son, etc. This week we read that if we love anything more than Jesus we cannot be His disciple. (In fact if we love anything at all, we cannot be His disciple.) These are very strong words. The cost of discipleship is our entire life. We give ourselves over to Him and He is allowed to do with us exactly what it pleases Him to accomplish. Jesus told us to make the choice but do it in full knowledge. If the cost is greater than we plan to pay, we should find another way. (Which would be as if we could find salt that didn't have any flavor.)

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

① O God, the living God, Your house is the place of rest and peace. We come this morning, drawn to You in prayer with true and believing hearts and minds.

We give thanks and praise for all Your goodness and mercy, we glorify You for the precious gift of Your Holy Child Jesus, Whom You sent to deliver us from the due reward of our transgressions, and by Whose Resurrection You have guaranteed us the crown of life.

Grant to us, O Father, faith in Your power and goodness, that we may always trust in You for all our daily needs and fulfill the duties of each day without fear and anxiety for tomorrow, knowing that You ordered all things according to Your will in Heaven and on Earth.

Change us through Your grace, O God, that we no longer seek the vanity of this world, nor follow the deceit of riches, but that we set our highest affection and desire on the things that pertain to Your kingdom and to the righteousness which is by faith and obedience. Open our minds to the understanding that our treasure is to be found in the richness of Christ, our most satisfying food, the Bread of Life, and our most glorious dress the garment of heavenly virtue.

Through all of life's short day, help our families with Your divine benediction and presence. Be with them in sorrow or joy, sickness or health, disappointment or success, and preserve them with Your grace. Forgive our sins, and teach us, O Lord, that You are a God of holiness and power, Who in righteousness and mercy rules the world and governs all people, and that in You we live and move and have our being.

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

Inasmuch as we can do no good thing with You, awaken us in body and soul, by Your Spirit, that we may do the work of faith and love, and thereby receive a blessed, joyful and abundant life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

© Amen.

## PROPER EIGHTEEN

### Chant Tone



### Introit

Make me understand the way of Your  
— precepts,\*  
and I will meditate on Your  
| wondrous works.  
My soul melts away for — sorrow;\*  
strengthen me according | to Your  
word!  
Put false ways | far from me\*  
and graciously teach | me Your law!  
I have chosen the way of | faithfulness;\*  
I set Your just decrees be — fore me.  
I cling to Your testimonies, — O Lord;\*  
let me not be | put to shame!

I will run in the way of Your  
com — mandments\*  
when You en | large my heart!

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.

Make me understand the way of Your  
— precepts,\*  
and I will meditate on Your  
| wondrous works.

(Antiphon, Psalm 119:27;  
Psalm 119:28-32)

### Collect of the Day

O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, 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, we begin another day of our life secure in Your protection, Love and forgiveness. Accept this song of praise. For Your laws which curb the violence of the wicked, we give You thanks. For the security of family and friends, whose love we can depend on because they love You, we sing Your praises. Direct, sanctify, and govern our life with Your Holy Spirit so that we may live to Your honor and glory and for the benefit of others. According to the promise of Jesus that You will hear us when we pray, we are bold to bring this to You in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**THE COST OF BEING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST IS VERY HIGH.** The price required is our entire life, a life dedicated in service of God. Jesus tells us to count up the cost before we make the dedication to be His disciple. Count up the cost and be certain that we are willing to give up everything to follow Him. We welcome all, who, in counting up the cost, have found the price Jesus paid for our sins, greater than the life of sin we have given up. We give over our will and desire to be filled with the greater Good of God and His perfect will and desire for our life. We praise our God Who took on our life that He might perfect us in the mystery of His desire, and allow us to follow Him as His disciple. Count up the cost and you will find that the wages of sin is death, while the price paid by Jesus to atone for our death is given to us for free and abounds to us as an eternity in the presence of God.

#### **THEME OF THE DAY:**

The Cost of Faith

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon, Psalm 119:27;) Psalm 119:28-32

Some think Psalm 119 was a lifetime work by David as there are 22 sections (one for each letter of the Hebrew Alphabet.) This is a new use of this section which comes from letter, "daleth." David asked for nothing less than to understand how to give up everything and follow the commandments of God. Jesus says to hate the things of the world because then we will find it easy to love God.

#### **COLLECT**

We ask to be give the courage and strength to follow Jesus no matter what the cost, for He is the only Truth.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**—Deuteronomy 30:15-20

We dropped what was the fourth lesson from the book of Proverbs to insert this new lesson from the book of Deuteronomy. It also substitutes for 30:9-14 which was removed from Proper 10. This section is from the account of the covenant between God and His people. It is an offer of renewal and reconciliation. Walking in the commands of God is not a difficult thing. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were able to walk in the commandments. It is however, the difference between life and death. Our sin keeps turning us toward death. God wants us to have life in Him.

**GRADUAL**—Psalm 34:9, 19 alternative

For a time David pretended to be insane. It allowed him to hide out in a foreign king's court while Saul was attempting to kill him. (It is easy to be afraid,) David realized that he was avoiding God's will. When he stopped pretending, he found God waiting for him.

**EPISTLE LESSON**—Philemon 1-12

This is all but the final 4 verses of the book of Philemon. Although Paul was making a request of Philemon, he does not command or require him to do it. Onesimus ran away from Philemon. Onesimus was Baptized, so when he returns Philemon will have him forever as a brother in Christ. Paul was not abolishing the institution of slavery or making a social commentary on slavery. Paul simply pointed out that if Onesimus wronged Philemon, then Philemon should charge that wrong to Paul. This is the cost that Christ took on for our sin, and Paul was willing to accept the price (not to mention what Philemon owed Paul for the cost of the Gospel proclaimed to him by Paul.)

**GOSPEL LESSON**—Luke 14:25-35

There is no advantage in our life for saying we believe in a god and not understanding that Jesus Christ is the One True God, One with the Father