

He was the bread that came down from Heaven. This caused the people to doubt. The claim was principal in the identification of Jesus in the book of John. That along with the "I AM" statements (by which Jesus was stating that He was the God who introduced Himself to Moses,) showed that Jesus was the Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God. Jesus compared the manna to Himself and presented that He is superior to the manna. Ultimately we do not come to Christ on our own, we are drawn by God. The Father draws us gently through the Word by faith, leading us to see the cross. If one is a believer, he hears God Himself teaching. All of our Propers center on God as Sovereign. With God we have nothing to fear.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ O Lord God, Whose path is mercy and truth, set Your secret in the hearts of those whom You Love and incline Your ear to us to hear our prayer. We ask You to hear us not for our righteousness nor in our name, but because You have given us the name which is above every other name, even Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. In Jesus we have life unto life eternal with You.

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

Bestow the Holy Spirit on Your Church, O Lord, that we may go into all the world bearing Your precious Gospel. Empower Your ministers in preaching Jesus Christ among all nations for the remission of sins and the assurance of Eternal Life. Save Your Church from all her enemies, evil workers, and perverters of the truth, that she may know no other Gospel than that for which she was delivered.

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 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.**)

These and all other things You deem necessary for our well being, grant us by Your infinite mercy and grace in the name of and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

© Amen.

## PROPER FOURTEEN

### Chant Tone



### Introit

You open — Your hand;\*  
You satisfy the desire of every  
| living thing.

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

Oh, fear the Lord, | you His saints,\*  
for those who fear Him | have no lack!

The young lions suffer want and  
— hunger;\*  
but those who seek the Lord lack  
| no good thing.

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.

You open — Your hand;\*  
You satisfy the desire of every  
| living thing.

(Antiphon, Psalm 145:16;  
Psalm 34:8-10)

### Collect of the Day

Gracious Father, Your blessed Son came down from Heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Grant that Christ, the bread of life, may live in us and we in Him, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

### Gradual

Fear the Lord, | you His saints,\*  
for those who fear Him lack — nothing!  
Many are the afflictions of the — righteous,\*  
but the Lord delivers him out | of them all.

(Psalm 34:9, 19, alternative)

**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** We praise You, O Lord, in all circumstances. We will speak of the glory of Your grace to everyone we meet. We have put You to the test and are convinced that in everything You work for good with those who love You. This gives us courage, for which we humbly thank and praise You. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we may walk in the sacrificial love with which Christ loved us. May we reflect to others a faith which believes that we have true life here and an eternity of life together with You in Heaven. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**ACCORDING TO THE TEMPORAL CALENDAR WE ARE AT ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER.** On the Church Calendar we have entered the middle weeks of the non festival season. Today we are in the middle of listening to the lessons from John 6, in the middle of the chapter that begins with the crowds attempting to force Jesus to be their king, and ends with the crowds rejecting and leaving Jesus. We are so separated from God that we are not even able to recognize Him when He is in our very presence. It is with jubilation that we acknowledge your presence here today. In our sin we are rendered incapable of recognizing Jesus, yet because of God at work in us, we are allowed to answer the call to come and worship.

**THEME OF THE DAY:**

Fearless Faith

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Psalm 145:16;) Psalm 34:8-10

We have been using a verse or two of Psalm 145 for all (but 4) of the Sundays since Trinity. It is designed to praise God for His Word. For a time, David pretended to be crazy. He was afraid of King Saul. Psalm 34 was written when he stopped pretending. David forgot to take refuge in God and forgot to depend on Him for deliverance. When He remembered he was given the ability to come to God's blessing and was granted fearless faith, faith that made him call out in song.

**COLLECT**

We seek the, "bread of life," and ask that He would live in us and we in Him just so that we have eternal life.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**—1 Kings 19:1-8

We know that Elijah was a great prophet, a mighty champion of God's cause in Israel. He was also human exactly as we are, and not immune to despondency, failure of nerve, discontent, depression and the like. Elijah was frustrated by his failure to abolish Baal worship and to turn back the hearts of the people to their God. He had come to the point where he saw no reason to on with the task. When Elijah was out of strength and spiritually drained, God provided food for the body and soul. Having been refreshed by God's sustaining mercy, Elijah was able to set out on his 40 day journey to Mt. Horeb.

**GRADUAL**—Psalm 34:9, 19, alternative  
Psalm 34 is described in the Introit, above.

**EPISTLE LESSON**—Ephesians 4:17–5:2

God has a plan to redeem sinners and restore His image in them (giving them the good things of life with Him and eternal life in His kingdom.) The first part of the plan was the sacrifice of Christ, offering Himself in Love for us. We are evil sinners who have a substitute Who is pleasing to God. In His righteousness and death which He gives to us, we are made acceptable to God. The second part of the plan of God, is the sending of the Holy Spirit to awaken faith in the Savior and restore the image of God in us. The divine Love toward us is shown in the fact that the healing and sanctifying work of the Spirit in us is called a sealing, indicating that we are marked as belonging to God as His possession.

**GOSPEL LESSON**—John 6:35-51

This passage is excerpted from Christ's "Bread of Life" discourse. This exchange occurred after Jesus fed the 5,000 and after the people failed to discern the sign that He had given in that miracle. Jesus stated that