

end of the discussion started by the, "Rich Young Man," This week we join the debate about what it means: "for a camel to go through the eye of a needle." Almost every story you have ever been told (to interpret the words) is not true. (There was no side gate called, "needle," the word Jesus used does not mean, "rope" in Aramaic. It appears Jesus actually meant what He said, it is impossible for people who view their wealth or success as proof that they are beloved by God, to get into Heaven. They are simply fooling themselves. It is very likely that Satan will fill your life with goodies that distract you from God. So be careful because you are only a manager of your stuff, it all belongs to God and He can take it back at any moment.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ Almighty and everlasting God, You are ever faithful to Your promises. We Your unworthy servants ask that we would be allowed to walk before You with our hearts open. Look toward this place where Your name is ever spoken and listen now to the prayer of Your people, that we may prove Your promises and rejoice in Your grace.

Enlighten our minds by the gift of Your Holy Spirit, that our ears are tuned, our eyes are adjusted, our minds are open, and our hearts prepared to receive Your Holy Word. Cause us to receive Your Word in reverence and gratitude. Allow It to instruct us in Your glory in the creating of the world, in Your sovereignty over the world You so created, and in Your infinite mercy in the gift of Your Son Jesus Christ, Whom You sent to be our Salvation. Enable us to believe Your Word with our whole being and give ourselves over to the work of Your Word in the world. Help us see those times when You are working in us and through us to benefit others, not for our glory, but that we might glory with those You have chosen us to serve.

Grant us the spirit of prayer, that in faith we may ever and boldly ask blessings for all our needs, offer our requests for loved ones and bring our intercessions for all people everywhere. Let us trust in Your goodness as You fulfill our prayer with an answer for the sake of Jesus.

Protect us from danger in storm or fire, from plague and famine, from war and discord, from treachery and rebellion, from luxury and ease, from ignorance and superstition, from lingering illness and painful death.

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

Though we have sinned against You and each other, we ask not for Your punishment for we could not stand, but allow us to walk in the life granted to us by Jesus, in Whose name we pray.

© Amen.

PROPER TWENTY-FOUR

Chant Tone



XI C: Ionia

Introit

The Lord is near to the broken-hearted
and saves the crushed in-spirit.

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

My soul makes its boast | in the Lord;
let the humble hear | and be glad.

Oh, magnify the | Lord with me,*

and let us exalt His name to — gether
I sought the Lord, and He | answered me
and delivered me from | all my fears

- * When the righteous cry for help, the
 - Lord hears*
 - and delivers them out of all their
 - troubles.

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.

The Lord is near to the broken-hearted*
and saves the crushed in-spirit.

(Antiphon: Psalm 34:18,
Isaiah 34:1-4, 17)

Collect of the Day

O God, Your divine wisdom sets in order all things in Heaven and on Earth. Put away from us all things hurtful and give us those things that are beneficial for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

For He will command His angels concerning you*
to guard you in all your ways.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

(*Psalm 91:11, 103:1*)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Almighty God, our fortress and defense and our shelter from the storm, accept our thanks and praise for Your Divine protection amid the dangers of our earthly life. You answer when we call; You have been with us in trouble; and You have granted us a full life. Forgive us Lord for having exalted ourselves and forgetting that the most important positions in Your kingdom go to those who humble themselves as servants to all. Send us Your Holy Spirit that He will keep us humble and willing to do Your will. Equip us to serve the sick, the lonely, and the spiritually distressed. Grant peace to the nations of the world and keep us safe. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

WHEN ROBERT TOWNSEND WAS CEO OF AVIS, HE MADE THE MANAGERS SPEND TWO WEEKS A YEAR WORKING AT A RENTAL COUNTER. The core of Avis was renting cars. Mr. Townsend decided that people who hadn't worked at the core of the business shouldn't be allowed to make decisions about those who did. Jesus came into the world, not to be served, but to serve. Jesus gave up the highest position in the Cosmos to come down and serve God's creation. He was the king of all mankind, yet He traded in His scepter for a cross that He might be able to understand our problems; our trials, our temptations. Jesus is our brother and our friend. He gave His all that we could be with Him forever.

THEME OF THE DAY:

The Value of Faith

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 34:18;) Psalm 34:1-4, 17

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 hearken back to creation and a reminder that Adam and Eve fell through the hurtful offering from Satan, to ask for that which will be beneficial to our life (especially Baptism and eternal life.)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

The book of Ecclesiastes was not in the Propers until the first, three year cycle when a compilation of verses from chapters 1 and 2 were put into (Pentecost 11) Proper 13C. Our latest three year cycle added chapter 5:10-20 to our readings for Proper 24B. There is a life to be lived. It is fleeting, confusing and impossible for people to organize and control, but life is not a fiction. Because there is something there, we must go on. Solomon told us that what our flesh thinks is life, is actually emptiness. The only point of life is the wonder of the knowledge of God. The knowledge of God is the treasure of life. Once we have that knowledge then our life is a joy (even if it isn't a joy by the understanding of our flesh.)

GRADUAL—Psalm 91:11, 103:1

Both of these Psalms were written by David. The use of the Gradual, follows an ancient pattern which changes with the festival. This week our Gradual complements the theme in that we bless His holy name for the work of our salvation. Today is our last use of these two verses.

EPISTLE LESSON—Hebrews 4:1-16

This lesson as with the Collect take us back to the creation of the world. The word that is translated, "good news," is only used one other time by Luke in the book of Acts. This is a fairly complicated treatise on "rest," (mentioned more than a dozen times.) Because of sin it is difficult to have quiet confidence in salvation. Our doubt and fear is settled in our knowledge of God's promise of forgiveness in Jesus.

GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 10:23-31

Perhaps because we are confident that you will be in worship every Sunday, we felt comfortable cutting Mark 10 in half. Today we see the