

in triumph and return to His Father in Heaven. The words make it clear that Jesus knew everything, where He had come from and where He was going. Jesus prayed that the Father would glory in the Son, which basically means that the Father would glorify Him in the suffering making the suffering a valuable commodity able to grant life. Jesus saw His work in the totality of time. Even before He went to the cross He knew of His Ascension. Christ's entire life was lived on our behalf. Alienated from the Father, we through Jesus know God as a dear Father and the only true God. Knowing the Father and His Son Jesus Christ is eternal life. It is safety and security in the work and the person of our Savior.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Ⓢ Almighty God, our Light and our Salvation, we adore and praise You for Your manifold works of Love and mercy toward all the people of the world. Especially we praise You for the gift of Your Only-Begotten Son, Who has Ascended into Heaven with the name which is above every name, to assume His position of power at Your right hand.

We thank You that You have crowned Him with glory for His perfect life, His loving obedience, His innocent sufferings, and His redeeming death. You raised Him as King over all the Earth and head over all the church, so that we are able to confess that He is the true Lord of our hearts and the only Savior of mankind.

Endow all who serve in Your Church with the mind of Your Holy Spirit, so that Christ may be confessed with all faithfulness, His cross uplifted, and His Gospel declared as the only power unto salvation. Fill Your people with a full measure of Your Holy Spirit that they will have a true longing to come to Your house of prayer to praise Your Holy name.

Pour out Your Spirit on our nation, that our people will dwell in peaceful homes and serve You in all godliness and honor. To this end bless all who labor with mind or hand, that they may work with diligence and honesty and receive the just reward for their work. Give a sanctified intelligence to all in government, that they may perform their duties in such a manner as to receive Your blessing and favor.

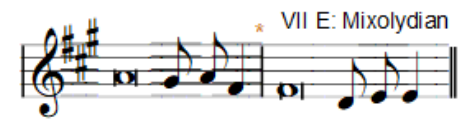
Hear the prayers of all who are afflicted with any adversity. In the quiet hours of the night when there is no one to lighten the weight of pain, loneliness, and anxiety, grant to them strength and bless them with the assurance of Your love, Your power, and Your presence.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)**
In all this we give Glory to Jesus Christ, our Savior, Who is to be praised for ever and ever.

© Amen.

ASCENSION ONE

Chant Tone



<p>Introit I will sing of steadfast love and — justice;* to you, O Lord, I will make — music.</p> <p>Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the Earth!*</p> <p>Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with — singing! Know that the Lord, He is God!*</p> <p>It is He Who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His — pasture.</p>	<p>Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!*</p> <p>Give thanks to Him; bless His name! For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures for — ever,* and His faithfulness to all gener — ations.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I will sing of steadfast love and — justice;* to you, O Lord, I will make — music.</p> <p><i>(Antiphon, Psalm 101:1; Psalm 100)</i></p>
--	---

Collect of the Day

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth Whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Christ has risen | from the dead*
God the Father has crowned Him with glory and — honor,
You have given him dominion over the works | of Your hands;*
You have put all things un | der His feet.

(Adapted from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: O Lord, You have done marvelous things. Through the Resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ You brought victory over the grave. You revealed that victory to reliable witnesses, who were sent forth to spread the Good News. You have given the gift of Your Holy Spirit to both Jew and Gentile. For using Your power on behalf of the human race, we give You our deepest thanks. Send us Your Holy Spirit that we may more adequately bear the fruits of Your Love. Help us show this love impartially, even to those with whom we do not agree, to the end that all may see and know that we belong to You. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR, TODAY IS EASTER SEVEN.

Pastor James Kramer once pointed out that historically this was the SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION, an event that occurred 40 days after Christ's Resurrection. We changed the name in the first revision to our cycle of readings. I am calling this ASCENSION ONE partly out of respect for Pastor Kramer, and partly because we do lose a little connection with the Early Church and even the Ascension of Christ to Heaven when we ignore the historical names. Christ's entire life was lived on our behalf. Jesus prayed for us as well as for His Apostles and Disciples. Asking Jesus to pray for us is a part of the miracle of His Ascension. In His flesh, seated at the right hand of God, He prays on our behalf, and then, because He is God, He willingly fulfills that for which He asks. He is the best of big brothers, because He knows what we need and then gives it to us.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Jesus our Priest

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 101:1;) Psalm 100

Psalm 101 was written by David. We are only using it because of its words having nothing to do with the context. Psalm 100 is from a group of ascribed Psalms. The Jews sang it while giving thank offerings. We use it as we wrap up the festival half of the church year, to express our general thanks for the birth, life, death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus, our Lord, our God, our King, our brother, our Savior, and above all our best friend Who advocates daily on our behalf.

COLLECT

This prayer is especially profound. Jesus has Ascended to Heaven. He left us, but not alone, and we pray that we would receive the Holy Spirit in abundance and grace.

FIRST LESSON—Acts 1:12-26

We are in between Ascension and Pentecost. Luke began the book of Acts with the announcement of the Ascension of Jesus and the promise of the Pentecost appearance of the Holy Spirit. The disciples still didn't quite understand the spiritual nature of the kingdom of God. Jesus was moving them from a strict preoccupation with the date and time of the end of the world, to a more important understanding of the mission they would begin on Pentecost. Many people (in religion and science) try to predict the date of the end of the world. Rather than be preoccupied with a date, we are to wait patiently while proclaiming the wonder of Jesus.

GRADUAL—Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7, Psalm 8:6

This is a statement of the Resurrection followed by the glory and honor given to Christ by our Father.

EPISTLE LESSON—1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

Our text is the seventh and final reading from 1 Peter. We have (almost) read the entire letter. The life of Christians in this world will not be different from that of their Lord and master Whom they are called to serve. Christians in today's world endure the most serious and pressing form of persecution, that of being mocked by the world. We stand firm as a testimony to our Savior who was always enduring intimidation and humiliation. God will make His people strong, steadfast, and firm. Following in the footsteps of Jesus we put our trust in Him and He will fulfill His promises.

GOSPEL LESSON—John 17:1-11

Every year, this Sunday is a portion of the High Priestly Prayer. Jesus prayed this on Maundy Thursday. He knew that He was about to walk to the cross but was equally aware that He would come forth from death