

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

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.

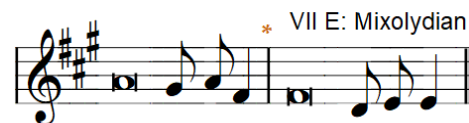
Hear the prayers of all who are afflicted with any adversity. In the quiet hours of the night when there is no one to lighten the weight of pain, loneliness, and anxiety, grant to them strength and bless them with the assurance of Your love, Your power, and Your presence.

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



Introit

The Lord is my light and my | salvation;
whom | shall I fear?

One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek — after:*

that I may dwell in the house of the
Lord all the days of my life, to gaze
upon the beauty of the Lord and to
inquire in His — temple.

For He will hide me in his shelter in
the day of —trouble;*

He will conceal me under the cover
of His tent; He will lift me high up
| on a rock.

For my father and my mother have
for | saken me,*
but the Lord will | take me in.

Wait | for the Lord;^{*}
be strong, and let your heart take
courage; wait | for the Lord!

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.

Hear, O Lord, when I | cry aloud;*

be gracious to me and | answer me!

(Antiphon, Psalm 27: 7;
Psalm 27:1a, 4-5, 10, 14)

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.)

THE GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY IS PORTION OF THE (SO TITLED) HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER JESUS OFFERED TO GOD ON MAUNDY THURSDAY. Jesus knew that He was about to walk the way of the cross but was equally aware that He would come forth from death in triumph and then return to Our Father in Heaven through His Ascension. His words make it clear that Jesus knew where He had come from and where He was going. Jesus saw His work in the totality of time. Even before He went to the cross He spoke of His Ascension. Jesus prayed for us as His 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.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Jesus our Priest

INTROIT—(Antiphon, Psalm 27:7;) Psalm 27:1a, 4-5, 10, 14
Psalm 27 was written by David before he became king. Many people think that it was written at the time of the death of his parents. It is an exposition of the wonder of God who can be called on in the time of trouble. It fits with our theme for the day with is, prayer.

COLLECT

Jesus has Ascended to Heaven. We praise Him for His exalted position. He did not leave us alone. We pray that He would keep us in His comfort by remembering His promise to send us the Holy Spirit.

FIRST LESSON—Acts 1:12-26

Judas' death (and his betrayal of Christ) struck hard. As Peter explained, Judas' death came as no accident but actually fulfilled the Old Testament. Peter referred to Psalm 69:25, which through his inspiration we have come to understand was prophecy of Judas. Peter turned to Psalm 109:8 to explain that another would need to be appointed to take his place. This is an interesting "need." He was speaking before the Pentecost, and as such it was still necessary for the Word to belong to the Old Covenant, which required the 12 (the representatives of the 12 tribes.) After Pentecost the New Testament church was established. Then Apostles were not replaced as they were martyred or died. It is the work of the Church to possess the Word and the work of the office of the Ministry to proclaim the Word.

GRADUAL—(adapted from) Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7, Psalm 8:6
This is our last Sunday with these verses. We proclaim the Resurrection, and marvel that God the Father exalted Jesus to a place of power.

EPISTLE LESSON—1 John 5:9-15

We have successfully read through the majority of the first Epistle of John. This week the connection to the theme of the Propers is in verse 15: "καὶ ἐὰν οἴδαμεν ὅτι ἀκούει ἡμῶν ὁ ἐὰν αἰτώμεθα, οἴδαμεν ὅτι ἔχομεν τὰ αἰτήματα ἃ ᾔτηκαμεν ἀπ' αὐτοῦ" -- which I roughly translate: "If you accept as truth the fact that He hears us when we pray, (which we do because Jesus always heard everything that was said to Him) then we know, with certainty, that we already have the things we have requested, as a consequence of asking." When you asked your mother, "What's for lunch?" you knew the food was already there with you in the house. Whenever we ask God for anything we can be certain that what we ask has already been heaped upon us for the sake and the person of Jesus.

GOSPEL LESSON—John 17:11b-19

The Gospel is from Jesus' High Priestly prayer. Like the high priest in