

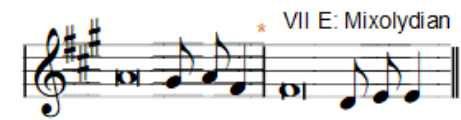
person did with their life. When we talk to a child we often talk about what they will do with their life. Jesus promises the disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit will guide them in all truth, comfort them, and counsel them while they tarry here on earth. Christ was not talking as One Who would die, but as One Who had many things still to do with His life. Christ supplies us with the answer to the question: Does God really exist here in our world? The answer is yes! He comes to us through His Spirit. He comes to us through His means of grace. God is not only near to us but among us. God is not only near and among us, He is living and active in us.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O Lord God, Your divine thoughts and sublime ways are as far removed from ours as the Heavens from the Earth. You live to bless and to communicate life, Love, beauty and joy throughout Your universe. You receive with pardon Your penitent children. We praise and glorify You for Your great goodness. We give You our heartfelt thanks for the precious gift of Your Son Jesus, Whom You sent that we might have life and have it more abundantly. To accomplish His mission, He innocently suffered in meekness and humility the afflictions of this life, took our sins and infirmities in His own body, and carried them to His death on the cross. For this great salvation; for our deliverance from the dominion of death by His Resurrection, we sing His Holy name. Bless Your Church and let us be, here in this congregation and elsewhere; a loving union of the faithful, a Holy Communion in sacred things, a people of faith and prayer, exercising a true religion in the performance of every merciful work. Through Your Church send forth Your Word, O God, into all the world, that in the power of Your truth it will accomplish Your will. Bless all our loved ones, O Lord of health and peace. We bring before You those who are sick and those who mourn. For Your people the world over, who are suffering in any manner of body or soul, we ask that You would seek them out in their distress bringing to them the confidence and the wonder of Your Love. For our nation, for our state, for our county, our city, and our homes we ask Your special intervention on our behalf. Defend us from all enemies within and without. Stir within us a thankfulness for all we have inherited from those who showed a willingness to sacrifice for our fellow citizens. Give us a willingness to remove all grievances from among us and grant us love, holiness and purity. Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (Time of silent prayer.) We seek the assurance of all our prayer in the name of Jesus our Savior. © Amen.

EASTER SIX

Chant Tone



<p>Introit Your word is a lamp to my feet* and a light to my path. Forever, — O Lord,* Your word is firmly fixed in the — heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all gener — ations;* You have established the Earth, and it — stands fast. By Your appointment they stand this day,* for all things are Your — servants.</p>	<p>If Your law had not been my delight,* I would have perished in my af — fliction. I will never forget Your — precepts,* for by them You have giv en me life. 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. Your word is a lamp to my feet* and a light to my path. <i>(Antiphon, Psalm 1119:105; Psalm 119:89-93)</i></p>
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Collect of the Day

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your Holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You 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 of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. 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. May we reflect Your Love in our home, church and world. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST PROVES THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD. In the final days of his life, Albert Einstein attempted to define a type of unified field theory. It was his opinion that there was one equation that could be applied to explain everything. Einstein had some form of a belief in a god, but it is unclear if Einstein's god had much authority. It is too bad that God has to prove anything to we humans. He is the only One Who understands the final equation, yet we demand to know all the answers. God proved the truth of His prophecy; proved the truth of His knowledge; proved the truth of His Word; in the Resurrection of Jesus from the grave. The Resurrection of Jesus should be enough to convince us all, but alas we are stubborn people and slow to acknowledge the sovereignty of God. Showing people the proof of God may not prove to them His existence, but that is what was effective for Paul. What is unknown to the world, we have known from our Baptism.

THEME OF THE DAY:

The Holy Spirit

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 119:105;) Psalm 119:89-93

Psalm 119 was probably written by David. Some think that it was a lifetime work as there are 22 sections (one for each letter of the Hebrew Alphabet.) The purpose of Psalm 119 is to expound on the excellent nature and usefulness of the Law of God. The main section of our Introit comes from letter, "Lamedh." We are told of the unchanging nature of God. He has given us the knowledge we need for salvation, He fulfilled it all in Jesus and He is not going to change His mind. Verse 105 is the first verse of, "Nun." God comes to our dark places to give us the light of His Word.

COLLECT

We pray that God would keep us in the way of His good and right nature. Through His work in our life, we ask that we would accomplish those "good and right" things.

FIRST LESSON—Acts 17:16-31

Paul was waiting for his companions to join him in Athens. As he waited he looked around and saw that, while these people appeared to be religious, they were very misguided. All around him were statues and monuments to false gods. Paul was in the midst of polytheistic thoughts and beliefs. In order to get the Word out he had to change his presentation and tactics without changing the saving message of Jesus Christ. Paul does not blast them for being pagans. He met them where they were. He gave them the truth of their "unknown god" whom Paul changed into an explanation of the One True God. What they worshiped as unknown Paul made known.

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 3:13-22

Peter states that as Christians we can be prepared to give an answer for the reason for our happiness. The answer is found in Jesus Christ. He died for all people just so that He will present us before God forgiven and clean. His precious blood was shed just so that any and all who believe Jesus will receive God's priceless gift of salvation. This gift comes through Baptism which saves us, gives us the Holy Spirit and makes us right with God. This is all God's work through Jesus.

GOSPEL LESSON—John 14:15-21

Jesus was preparing to leave. He was coming back to the disciples, but then He would leave again. At a funeral, we talking about what the