

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

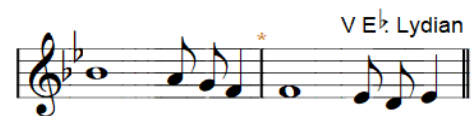
May Your kingdom come to everyone on Earth so that all governments and people bow before Your Son Jesus Christ. Let all the Earth see that He is the only One who can heal all the wounds caused by sin. We ask that You vent Your righteous anger on those who spread violence among us. Make them know that You are a God whose Law must be obeyed. Bring Your Law and allow Your justice to prevail. Bring down the plans of those who seek to achieve their goals by taking the law into their own hands. Protect us from the violence of terrorists and others who would seek to do us harm.

Though it was not His mission for coming into the world, we know that through His great compassion Jesus did miracles of healing and blessing to those whom He chose. Therefore we ask that You would bring comfort to those who mourn and give patience to the sick. Focus strength on the weak and abundance on the needy. Grant forgiveness to the penitent and sanity to the rebellious.

We pray in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

EPIPHANY FIVE

Chant Tone



Introit

Consider and answer me, O Lord my
God;*

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.

I will sing | to the Lord,*
because He has dealt bountifully
— with me.

(Antiphon, Psalm 13:6;
Psalm 13:3-5)

Collect of the Day

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Extol Him, all — peoples!

Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due His name,*
bring an offering and come in | to His courts!

(Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, Creator of all good things and Redeemer of the world, give me Your Spirit that I may be a good and faithful steward of Your gifts. Forgive me when I leave matters undone, neglect my talents, and misuse my gifts. Help me do the difficult and bitter tasks as well as the pleasant and joyful duties. Make me diligent in using my energies to full capacity. Help me to be zealous in all my work. Give me ambition for unselfish service. Prompt me to serve You and those around me for Your sake. Bless me with the joy of an unworthy servant who has been made worthy through the merits of Jesus Christ. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

WE GENERALLY PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE HEALING JESUS DID THAN TO THE WORDS HE SPOKE. Quite possibly this is because we have so many perceived needs for our physical well being, that we pay less attention to our spiritual well being. The miracles of Jesus, the healing done by Jesus was simply proof that He was in fact the Messiah and to prove that He had the power to forgive sin. Over time the people came to believe in the healing and not in the Only-begotten Son who had done the healing. We live in a world of trouble and sin. It is only through the grace of God that we have any physical health at all. It is through His Mercy that we have been given spiritual health which abounds to a life in Heaven. We thank God for allowing all of His people to gather today in this place, to worship together in their spiritual health and well being.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Healed To Help

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 13:6;) Psalm 13:3-5

King David wrote Psalm 13 at a time when he felt abandoned by God for some disease or malady. David complained that God was ignoring him, and wasn't in any hurry to help him. He prayed for God to consider his case and comfort him. Then David concluded that his healing was as good as done, and therefore, he finished the Psalm with joy and triumph.

COLLECT

This is a rewrite of the traditional prayer. In today's grammar the word "hope," often means "wish." For that reason, I prefer to insert, "expectation" or "assurance," when "hope" is used as a noun. We state that because of our faith in the work and the person of Jesus, we are guaranteed (or are able to expect) "grace" (which is God's undeserved love.)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 40:21-31

Chapter 40 of Isaiah begins the end. In this section, Isaiah presents a message of comfort to the people. Chapters 40 through 66 show God as the only assurance for sinners, especially as we count down to the end of the world. So many things in life seem to be a cause for pain, gloom, doubt and uncertainty. But the God of Heaven and Earth, the only true God, does not abandon us in their midst. Rather, He carries out His plan of salvation for us, bringing good tiding to us with power and glory and might.

GRADUAL—Psalm 117:1-2a, 96:8

Psalm 117 (the shortest Psalm) is a general song of praise for all God has done for us, (His lights shining in the world.) Psalm 96 looks to the reign of the Christ when the Gentiles will be called as disciples of Jesus.

EPISTLE LESSON—1 Corinthians 9:16-27

The Corinthians had a huge problem. They took everything to what they considered its logical conclusion. When told that the Gospel was free and that they had been freed from the slavery of sin, they took that to mean they shouldn't do anything. Paul had to reign them in. He used himself as an example in many of his exhortations to the Corinthian congregations. In this case he was expressing his freedom to make himself a slave to Christ. It is our understanding of the 3rd use of the law. We use the Law (even though we are no longer under the law) to understand the limits of our Christian freedom. In our Christian freedom we are always successfully able to help others.

GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 1:29-39

Just as Peter's mother-in-law was healed to help, all Christians are healed to help. In Holy Baptism we are sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked