

leprosy who calls out. The reputation of Jesus had gone ahead of him. This man pleaded to Jesus in a very curious manner. He begged with no question that Jesus could will the healing. The man didn't think he was worthy to be healed, but he asked Jesus to will it anyway. (Add an, "it" after the word, "will" to increase your comprehension.) Jesus spoke to the man very sternly, and then insisted that he tell no one. The speaking sternly I don't get. The, "not telling" is because in the book of Mark, until Jesus was ready to send out His Apostles, with the message that the Messiah was headed to set up His kingdom, (when Jesus was going to the cross,) He said that to everyone.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© Open our lips, O Lord, and our mouths shall show forth Your praise. Restore unto us the joy of our salvation and uphold us with a willing spirit. Put Your law in our hearts, and help us be Your people. Then we will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

We give You heartfelt thanks, O Lord, for sending Your Son Jesus Christ, into the world. Being perfect, He humbled Himself in the form of our sinful flesh and has become the Source of our salvation. We acknowledge, O Lord, that we are undeserving of even the least of Your grace and mercy. Our love for the world has often made us reluctant to serve You. We want to be with You, but hesitate to follow You. We have not always honored You with our service. For our lack of zeal and self-sacrifice, forgive us, O Lord.

Send us Your Holy Spirit that we may properly glorify You and Your Son. Give us the enthusiasm and nerve that would help us show others a vision of Your glory. Grant us wisdom and understanding to lead our nation and the nations of the Earth to the foot of Christ's cross. Give to those of us in Your Church a deep sense of dedication to the mission of proclaiming the death and Resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ.

Open our eyes to Your goodness and to the needs of others. Unstop our ears that we may hear Your voice above the noise and confusion of our times. Free our tongues that we may speak of the wonders of Your mighty acts. Give us vision to see the world ripe for the harvest. May all ears be attentive to the message of Your heavenly Gospel. May all voices be tuned to sing Your praise. Give to the lonely an awareness of Your presence, to the sick, the expectation of healing through Your power, and to the depressed, a goal for living.

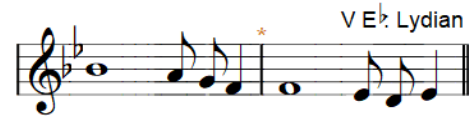
Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (Time of silent prayer.)

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior.

© Amen.

EPIPHANY SIX

Chant Tone



Introit

Light dawns in the darkness for the
—upright;*
he is gracious, merciful, and
—righteous.

Praise the Lord! Blessèd is the man
who | fears the Lord,*
who greatly delights in His
com — mandments!

Wealth and riches are | in his house,*
and his righteousness endures
for — ever.

He is not afraid of — bad news;*
his heart is firm, trusting | in the
Lord.

His heart is steady; he will not | be afraid,*
until he looks in triumph on his
adver — saries.
He has distributed freely; he has given
to the poor; his righteousness endures
for — ever;*
his horn is exalted in — honor.

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.

Light dawns in the darkness for the
—upright;*
he is gracious, merciful, and
— righteous.

(Antiphon, Psalm 112:4;
Psalm 112:1, 3, 7-9)

Collect of the Day

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Praise the Lord, all — nations!*
Extol Him, all — peoples!
For great is His | Love toward us,*
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for — ever.
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: O righteous and gracious Father, because You sent Your Son in the form of a humble servant, I understand that is what I should be. Create in me the mind of Christ that I may be Your servant. Destroy in me false humility that is really pride, false pride that is really fear, and false expectations that will not face reality. Expose the shabbiness, phoniness, and emptiness of my pretenses and dreams. In Christ accept me as I am and give to me the blessing of His innocence. By His dying and rising again, permit me to rise out of the death of pride to new life in humility. All this I ask to be blessed through Him Whom You exalted to be my Lord. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

HE CAME TO BE THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE, AND YET JESUS SPENT MUCH OF HIS TIME IN LONELY PLACES. I spent the summer of 1971 washing the windows of TG&Y stores in Oklahoma City. Generally I was on the job at first light, about 4AM and had to be done by Noon (because the windows would get too hot to wash.) I washed windows on the same 10 stores day in and day out for about 15 weeks. My family and friends were all working jobs with more "normal hours," so I had no social life. I came to understand what it means to be lonely. Jesus often left the crowds to go off to the lonely places. Partly this was to fulfill His mission, and partly this was to ensure that He was not only the God of the crowds, but also the God and Savior of the individuals, we who are in our lonely places of spiritual need.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Freely Healed

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 112:4;) Psalm 112:1, 3, 7-9

This Psalm begins with Hallelujah, (see Epiphany 3.) We suggest therefore that Psalm 111, 112 and 113, were written by the same unidentified person. Here we, "Praise the Lord;" for whatever glory is ours comes from God, and will return to Him; as He is our praise, so we are His. We have reason to, "Praise the Lord," because there are a people in the world who believe and serve Him, and those who know and believe are happy people, all of which comes entirely by the grace of God.

COLLECT

Our sin brings trouble into our life. We ask to be delivered from our sin so that we are able to have life in the name of Jesus.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—2 Kings 5:1-14

This is the account of Naaman commander of the king of Aram's army. Naaman was told that he could receive a healing from the statement of a slave girl. Naaman thought it would be expensive, so he was prepared to pay. Elisha didn't even come out to see him, instead sending word through a messenger. God works on His own terms, claiming us as His own in His way, giving us forgiveness of sins, delivery from death and the devil, and eternal salvation. Without the Word of God, the water of the Jordan would have done nothing for Naaman. Without the Word, the water of our baptism would have done nothing.

GRADUAL—Psalm 117:1-2a, 96:8

God showers us with great Love (grace) which is given to the believers and the unbelievers every morning. Verse 2 of Psalm 117 expresses the Love of God that shows forth in His faithfulness. By God's grace, we know that He will never vary from any part of His promises.

EPISTLE LESSON—1 Corinthians 10:19–11:1

We made a significant change to Epiphany and Lent in the middle 1960's. Previously, we ended Epiphany and began counting down to Easter at 70 days (Septuagesima.) We maintained some remnant of the historic lessons in that we use 1 Corinthians during Epiphany in each of the three years. In today's lesson (loosely connected to the Collect,) Paul reminded the Corinthians (and us) that using the Law of God to order our life is useful and beneficial to ourselves and others.

GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 1:40-45

Jesus is made manifest in the Epiphany season as the Messiah through demonstrations of divine power and compassion. Jesus is shown to be traveling about Galilee, preaching and healing. This week it is a man with