

The man wanted to know how to best fulfill the Law. Jesus began the discussion in the law. However, the law will never be enough unless we understand that God's Law is the Law of Love. God is Love. Everything He has done is designed to serve us on Earth. We may curse gravity when it causes us to fall off a ladder, but the Love behind the creation of gravity is clear every day. We probably would have asked the same follow up question as the man, especially if we wanted to narrow the conversation. We sort of expect Jesus would tell him that his family, or the Hebrew nation were his neighbors, but Jesus said a neighbor is someone the man doesn't like, a Samaritan. Most of the time we understand these verses as talking about stewardship. The fact is Jesus was speaking of evangelism. We should love the world enough to tell others about Jesus. If we heal their wounds they will live for a day. When we tell them about Jesus (and they believe) they will live eternally.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O Holy and immortal God, You cover Yourself with light as a garment, and stretch out the heavens like a curtain. You make the clouds Your dwelling and walk upon the wings of the wind. In humility of soul we give You thanks and praise.

We thank You that You have given the world its daily bread, providing the Earth with its wonders. You designed the seed, whose power unfolds in abundant harvest. With the light and the air, the dew and the rain together You make the efforts of the farmers so fruitful.

O Lord, we hunger for spiritual knowledge: give us faith. Our soul yearns for truth: lead us to Your Holy Word, there to find Your sublime doctrines. We cry for forgiveness and pardon: turn us to Jesus as the one who will make us clean. We crave for life: feed us with the very body and blood of Christ that we are made one in the power of His Resurrection, that we will have life eternal.

We acknowledge Your loving kindness to our country, and we thank You for the good You have given us. Give strength to all the forces of righteousness in our midst, and overthrow all the powers of evil. Be the Helper of all our families. Implant Your Word in the hearts of our children and Your Love in our parents. Free the afflicted from their troubles and bring them ever closer to You, that they may know abundant life. Let us all live, serve and praise You.

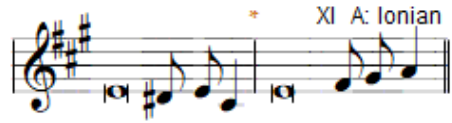
Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (Time of silent prayer.)

O God, You see us as we are, not the way we would want to be, and yet You continue to Love and care for us. Therefore we ask that You would send us forth from this place with such faith and love that it is obvious to everyone that we are Your child. In the name of Jesus we pray.

© Amen.

PROPER TEN

Chant Tone



Introit	
Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,* for His steadfast love endures for — ever.	Give thanks to the God of Heaven,* for his steadfast love endures for — ever.
It is He who remembered us in our low estate,* for His steadfast love endures for — ever; and rescued us from our foes,* for His steadfast love endures for — ever; He Who gives food to all flesh,* for His steadfast love endures for — ever.	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. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,* for His steadfast love endures for — ever.
<i>(Antiphon, Psalm 136:1; Psalm 136:23-26)</i>	

Collect of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach | the good news,*
who publish peace and bring good news of sal — vation.
Their voice has gone out to | all the Earth,*
and their words to the ends | of the world.

(Romans 10:15b, 18b; Isaiah 52:7b, alternative)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, Almighty God, we come to You in adoration and praise. For calling us before the foundation of the world to be a part of Your kingdom, we give You thanks. For the riches of Your grace through Your Son Jesus Christ, we praise Your most Holy name. For revealing to us the mystery of Your will, we are grateful. Send us Your promised Holy Spirit that we may be inspired to hear Your Word of truth and live according to that Word. Having been redeemed at the price of Your Son's blood, may we treasure this knowledge and do Your Holy will. Grant peace to our world, and help us live in harmony. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR ANOTHER IS TO TELL THEM ABOUT JESUS. Anything else pales in comparison. The Salvation Army has always acknowledged that their primary mission is the spreading of the Word of God. They also realize that someone who is hungry is not going to be able to listen very well. They use their ministry of food to promote the spreading of the Word of God among the people of the world. In the church we use the food of the Word of God to feed those whose souls are starving for the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. As we work together to feed our "neighbors," let us not become weary in doing this work which has been set before us in the name of Jesus Christ.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Love That Gives Salvation

INTROIT—(Antiphon, Psalm 136:1;) Psalm 136:23-26

Psalms 135, 136 and 137 are alike in structure and were most likely written by the same unknown person. This is the first liturgical use of Psalm 136. Every verse contains the refrain, "His steadfast Love endures forever." We use the first and last verses of Psalm 136 to establish the theme that God's Divine mercy is always at work, striving to bring us to Him.

COLLECT

This new (in 2006) Collect comports to the theme of the day. We recognize that we are rescued from eternal death and ask to be empowered to give this message of love (salvation) to our neighbors.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Leviticus 18:1-5; 19:9-18

Leviticus 18:1-5 was historically read with our Gospel Lesson on the equivalent of Proper 14. It was dropped in the first RCL. It is now a suggested reading to be paired with Leviticus 19:9-18 which, (as with our Introit) is the first historic use of Leviticus 19. The book of Leviticus presents the Law of God concerning the worship of the people. The refrain in this lesson is: "I Am the Lord your God." The point is that we are to follow the Law of God as we deal with the people of the world. As the chosen people, we are to follow the Law of God, not because of the consequences of a failure to follow the Law, but because God has told us that following His Law will improve our life; show others that our God is the One True God. Following God's Law will show that He Loves and respects us. His steadfast love endures forever.

GRADUAL—Romans 10:15b, 18b; Isaiah 52:7b alternative

This Gradual was created for our 2006 revision. Paul expressively quoted Isaiah, then we finish by paraphrasing Isaiah. The Word of God is going to the ends of the Earth, prompted on by the Church of God.

THE EPISTLE LESSON—Colossians 1:1-14

We Christians often forget what great things God our heavenly Father, has done for us. We even become unclear as to how and through Whom He has done these great things. We think it is good to be self reliant and self sufficient. Paul reminded us that we thank, pray to and praise God for all things. We poor sinners are called saints and faithful brethren in Christ. Paul was helping us understand this language speaks of our spiritual life and our relationship with God.

THE GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 10:25-37

What is the way to eternal life? Perhaps this is the biggest question we can ask. Jesus took this question from the man in the spirit it was given.