

shepherd is bondage. In the feeding of the 5,000. Jesus presented so many things; the creative ability of God, the compassion of God, the wonder and wisdom of God, etc. Yet there are two other stories going on here. The first is the teaching of the Apostles. He took His disciples off to a quiet place to rest, He takes us out of the troubles and cares of the world to the quiet place of God's Love. The second is the seal of the covenant of the Words Jesus has spoken. He seals the Words with a meal, as a figure of the fact that He will seal all of His Words with His own shed blood. He is our shepherd leading us to the place of peace.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O heavenly Father, by Your Son You created all things that are in Heaven and Earth, visible and invisible, giving Him authority over it all. We thank you that through Him we have been adopted into Your family. Now, we are able to truly know You as our Father, call upon You in prayer, and be assured that we will be heard as Your beloved children.

Father, for Your church and people we pray. Grant us Pastors and teachers who are counseled and led by Your Spirit. Send out people who earnestly hold forth the Word of life, diligently gather Your children and teach them from Your Word all things that are useful for their training, reproof and continued faith (in the salvation bought for us by Jesus.) Keep us knit together in Your Love, that we may stand fast in one spirit, and with one mind strive together for the faith of the Gospel.

Father, let Your Spirit descend on our homes. Let the Word of Christ dwell richly in the children, and grant that all parents are worthy examples of Christian virtues. Shelter the homes where Your Word reigns supreme from all harm and danger.

O our gracious Father, from Whom all good counsels and just works come, we pray for any of Your children who may be enduring pain, sickness, the threat of disease, mental or spiritual anguish, or any other adversity of body or soul. Give them such an assurance of Your Love and mercy that they may commit themselves completely into Your care and receive from You all things needful for their health and healing. We especially ask that you assure them of their salvation.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (Time of silent prayer.) Abba, Father, You have instructed us through Your Word to let our requests come to You. We come in loving gratitude and trust offering this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ.

© Amen.

PROPER ELEVEN

Chant Tone



<p><b>Introit</b> You open — Your hand;* You satisfy the desire of every   living thing.</p> <p>Sing to the Lord with thanks — giving;* make melody to our God   on the lyre! He covers the heavens with clouds; He prepares rain   for the Earth;*</p> <p>He makes grass grow   on the hills. He gives to the   beasts their food,* and to the young ravens — that cry.</p>	<p>His delight is not in the strength   of the horse,* nor His pleasure in the legs   of a man, but the Lord takes pleasure in those who — fear Him,* in those who hope in His   steadfast love.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>You open — Your hand;* You satisfy the desire of every   living thing.</p> <p><i>(Antiphon, Psalm 145:16; Psalm 147:7-11)</i></p>
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Collect of the Day

Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and know | ledge of God!\*  
How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscruta | ble His ways!  
For from Him and through Him and to Him | are all things.\*  
To Him be glory forever. — Amen.

(Romans 11:33, 36)

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**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** We extol You, O God, and bless Your name forever. You are great and Your greatness is unsearchable. You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast Love. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, enduring through all generations. With the Holy Spirit, help us show others how You provide for our physical life as well as our spiritual life. As You fed thousands with five barley loaves and two fish, help us to believe that You will provide for our necessities. Keep us from worrying about earthly bread, and help us seek Jesus our Lord. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**THE CONGRESS OF THE CONFEDERATION ENDORSED A PLAN TO REVISE THE** Articles of Confederation. 12 states, Rhode Island being the only exception, accepted the plan and sent delegates to convene in May 1787. The resolution calling the convention specified that its purpose was to propose amendments to the Articles. It became clear by mid-June that, rather than amend the existing Articles, the need was for a totally new Constitution. God decided to redesign us. It wasn't sufficient to simply rework us. It was necessary for Jesus to change us by making His efforts and His work appear as if we did them.

**THEME OF THE DAY:**

Fed By The Shepherd

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Psalm 145:16;) Psalm 147:7-11

Psalm 147 is a song of praise written by David after the nation occupied and built Jerusalem. He understood that the temple would be in Jerusalem. David understood that God had promised to dwell in the city of Jerusalem. David knew that the Messiah would soon come to that temple in that city to take His rightful place. (We will discuss Psalm 145 next week.)

**COLLECT**

God is most amazingly involved in our day to day existence. He gives us air to breathe and water to drink, even when we don't acknowledge Him or His goodness. In this prayer we admit that we do not deserve anything from God. However, He continues to provide for all our wants and needs and He gives us His Holy Spirit just so that we are able to give Him thanks, praise His name, and do His works.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**—Jeremiah 23:1-6

The grace of God, (the favor with which He views believers in spite of our weakness and folly,) has provided the justice and security that we do not receive from our rulers—the false shepherds. Sheep get into enough trouble on their own without their shepherds turning on them. God is promising to "attend" to the shepherds. He will gather His scattered flock and give us "a" shepherd who will properly tend and lead. God made the promise, fulfilled in Jesus, to raise up the Lord our Righteousness. The Good Shepherd is God and we follow Him.

**GRADUAL**—Romans 11:33, 36

In Romans chapter 11, Paul lamented the fact that the Jews rejected Jesus and therefore salvation. These verses sing praise to God. Even in our unbelief, we were chosen to believe.

**EPISTLE LESSON**—Ephesians 2:11-22

Those who have been separated from Christ are now in Christ. This is not merely a geographical distance but spiritual distance as well. Christ has solved the problem of our relationship with God and with one another, by lifting us to God. We are brought to God by being gathered by Christ into the spiritual temple of God. We have been brought into a new country and joined together with fellow believers. All of this was done so we are able to follow Jesus in the way He walked.

**GOSPEL LESSON**—Mark 6:30-44

Sheep without a shepherd are not free. They lack the essential tools for life. They do not know where to find food and water. Without a shepherd to defend them they become food for wild animals. Liberation from the