

GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 6:45-56

We continue to be, on-our-own with this lesson. The crowds wanted to see and touch Jesus because of the feedings and because of the healings. Their understanding of Jesus was oddly limited to how He could be of advantage to their stomach. (Verse 52 is a very frightening passage.) We praise God that we are allowed to hear His Word. Our greatest desire is that we would never become lazy in that hearing. Thomas Jefferson wanted to recognize Jesus without the miracles, but in the miracles we recognize the promise that Jesus is God and that in the mercy of God He continues to work the miracle of faith in us that we believe.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© Almighty and Everlasting God, You search all hearts and know all thoughts. Your eyes are in every place, seeing the evil and the good. As we approach the Throne of Your grace, grant us true humility and penitence. We ask You not to remember our sins, but for the sake of Jesus Christ, hear us as we bring our prayers and petitions to You.

We thank You for all of Your benefits to us. Help us use everything You have given us in a faithful manner as good stewards of Your gifts.

Grant us a true understanding of Your Word, so that we are guided in all judgments by Your truth. Keep us always in Your Word that leads to Eternal Life. Enable us to learn by the examples in the Holy Scripture, both the good and the bad, that we are able to do the things we should and avoid the things that are evil in Your sight.

Keep our country in Your care. Ensure that honor and honesty, truth and integrity, are upheld, and that lawlessness, wickedness, and rebellion are put down. We especially ask You to look on all who bear responsibility for our government. Give them wisdom to govern in an example of Your will.

We pray this day for all who may be ill in body, mind or spirit. We pray for all who may be in danger of body or soul. We pray for all who may be in anxiety or perplexity. We pray for all who may be suffering any defeat or disappointment. Be with them in their affliction, show them the way out of their troubles, and save them for we know that You are a gracious and forgiving God.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)**
Mercifully grant these and all other petitions that we bring in the name of Jesus Christ.
© **Amen.**

PROPER TWELVE

Chant Tone



<p>Introit On the glorious splendor of Your majesty,* and on Your wondrous works, I will meditate.</p> <p>I will extol You, my God and king,* and bless Your name forever and —ever.</p> <p>Every day I will —bless You* and praise Your name forever and —ever.</p> <p>Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.* and His greatness is un searchable.</p>	<p>They shall speak of the might of Your awesome deeds,* and I will declare Your —greatness. They shall pour forth the fame of Your abundant —goodness* and shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.</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>On the glorious splendor of Your majesty,* and on Your wondrous works, I will meditate.</p> <p><i>(Antiphon, Psalm 145:5; Psalm 145:1-3, 6-7)</i></p>
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Collect of the Day

Almighty and most merciful God, the protector of all who trust in You, strengthen our faith and give us courage to believe that in Your love You will rescue us from all adversities; 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 confess, O Lord, that in spite of Your assurance of constant care, we often get discouraged with our lot in life. We have often permitted circumstances to make us bitter and angry toward others. We ask Your forgiveness for the sake of Christ. Bless our nation, O Lord with righteousness and peace. May all those in positions of government use their influence for the greatest good of all our citizens. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we may reflect to others a faith which believes that we shall live forever with You in Heaven. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

NATHAN HALE WANTED TO BE A PASTOR IN THE PURITAN CHURCH: He graduated first in his class at Yale (at age 18.) He was employed as a teacher to 30 boys teaching them the classics. He argued that woman were being neglected in their education, so, from 5 to 7AM he offered the same class to 20 girls. At the age of 19 in July 1775, he joined the local militia. He delivered a speech that included what may have been the first public use of the word, "independence," Hale accepted a commission as First Lieutenant and went to war. He was captured and without trial was executed by hanging. That was when he said, "I regret that I have only one life to give for my country." Jesus paid, with His death as the price for all our sins. He has made us over into people who belong in Heaven. In Jesus we have been freed from the tyranny of sin, death and destruction.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Faith Is A Miracle

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 145:5;) Psalm 145:1-3, 6-7

We, the members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, are on-thin-ice, today with our readings. The only thing that ties us to the historic church is our Introit. Psalm 145 has been used as today's Gradual, from as far back as I can discern. It is titled, "David's Psalm of Praise." (The last five Psalms all begin with "alleluia" translated, "Praise the Lord.") 145 is designed to praise God for the liberty we have been granted to hear His Word.

COLLECT

Our greatest "adversity," is sin. Which is to say that through our faith we have Heaven as our home. The "adversities" we face on Earth are just temporary bumps in the road of life. Still we ask to be spared of earthly "adversity," because of the trouble it causes.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Genesis 9:8-17

As far as I can tell, this is the first time a church body has ever used the flood and the symbol of God's peace, the rainbow, in our reading schedule. We (LC-MS) are on our own with this as all other denominations have a different Old Testament reading for Proper 12. The rainbow reaches from one end of the sky to the other, a description from our perspective. Most of the time God explains things to fit our perspective, so we have some possibility of understanding. The rainbow is a brilliant radiance and beauty against the dark, threatening clouds in which it appears. In the Flood narrative, these clouds recall devastating divine judgment. With the rainbow's appearance, we are given an example of the joy and splendor of the Resurrection of the Son of God after the darkness of Good Friday and the tomb.

GRADUAL—Romans 11:33, 36

(The Gradual changes about every six weeks.) Today we sing praise to God for even in our unbelief, we were chosen in His grace to believe in the victory for righteousness won by our Savior.

EPISTLE LESSON—Ephesians 3:14-21

(As an exception,) this lesson is the same in all the Protestant churches today (it is not used by the Roman Catholic's.) Verses 20 and 21 tie in nicely to our Introit as they are a prayer asking that God would work in us. Verses 14-19 are an explanation of the faith that allows us to comprehend God. Paul was way smarter than I will ever be. He wrote some really deep theology. In today's lesson we begin with the wonder that God, in the creation of the world, knew your name or as Paul actually said God named us. God created the world just so that you and I would have true life!