

**THE GOSPEL LESSON**—Luke 11:1-13

The emphasis today is the prayer of the saints; The Lord's Prayer, being persistent in prayer, and receiving the good gifts through asking in prayer, are all covered. Hospitality was significantly important among the Hebrews. Last week we saw Martha and Abraham involved in hospitality. This week Jesus used the idea of seeking help from a neighbor to fulfill hospitality. The situation of refusing to help a neighbor with the excuse of a late hour and locked door, would be unthinkable. For everyone who seeks finds; and when you knock the door will be opened. All this presented by Jesus to illustrate prayer and the hospitality of God.

**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. Grant us, true humility and penitence, as we approach the Throne of Your grace. We ask You not to remember our sins, but according to Your mercy, and for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your only-begotten Son, 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. Give us Your Holy Spirit so that we are able in our physical life to show forth the good graces You have established in our spiritual life.

Grant us a true understanding of Your Word, so that we are guided in all judgments by Your truth. Keep us in the 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 to Your Way.

Keep our country in Your care, that honor and honesty, truth and integrity, may be upheld. We especially ask You to look on all who bear responsibility for our government. Ensure that they are endowed with wisdom to govern in an example of Your will.

We pray this day for all who may be ill in body, mind or spirit, for all who may be in danger of body or soul, for all who may be in anxiety or perplexity, for all who may be suffering any disappointment or defeat. 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 acceptable petitions which we bring in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

© **Amen.**

**PROPER TWELVE**

**Chant Tone**



<p><b>Introit</b> Call upon Me in the day of —trouble;* I will deliver you, and you shall glori —fy Me.</p> <p>With my whole heart I cry; answer me, —O Lord!*</p> <p>I will keep Your —statutes. I call to You; —save me,* that I may observe Your testi —monies. I rise before dawn and  cry for help;*</p> <p>I hope  in Your words. My eyes are awake before the watches  of the night,* that I may meditate on Your —promise.</p>	<p>Hear my voice according to Your  steadfast love;*</p> <p>O Lord, according to Your justice  give me life.</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>Call upon Me in the day of —trouble;* I will deliver you, and you shall glori —fy Me.</p> <p><i>(Antiphon, Psalm 50:15; Psalm 119:145-149)</i></p>
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**Collect of the Day**

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You 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)*

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**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** We give thanks to You, O Lord, with our whole heart. You have answered our prayers and delivered us from the trouble of our life. We are the personal witnesses of the fact that Your steadfast Love endures forever. Empower us with Your Holy Spirit to approach You in prayer. Strengthen our faith in Your will that our prayers will be fulfilled. Help us pray with meaning, trusting that we have been redeemed through Christ. Bless our leadership in this church with wisdom, understanding and in dedicated service to You and our fellow believers. Forgive us all our trespasses and lead us into Your kingdom where we live forever and ever. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**THE APOSTLES ASKED JESUS TO TEACH THEM TO PRAY.** This is what He said: "Father Hallowed be Thy name, Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation." There is a certain amount of debate as to whether Jesus meant His prayer to be a sincere prayer, or just an outline. Either way it is a wonderful recitation, as we work through all of the words and their connection with the Word of God. Jesus probably meant it as both. We use the "Lord's Prayer," as the outline of what a prayer should be and we recite His prayer when all else fails for us and we find that the Words lend so much comfort in our life.

**THEME OF THE DAY:**

Persistence In Prayer

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon, Psalm 50:15;) Psalm 119:145-149

Psalm 119 was probably written by David. Some think that it was a lifetime work as there are 22 sections (one for each letter of the Hebrew Alphabet.) Today's reading comes from letter, "qoph." Psalm 50 was written by Asaph. He was a writer of music for Temple worship. With these we begin the theme of persistence in prayer.

**COLLECT**

Radio and television announcers are attempting to inform an audience whom they (usually) do not see. They often form, in their mind, a person to whom they are speaking. Prayer is difficult because we do not see God, we simply have to believe the assurance that He is listening. We ask that our prayers would be pleasing in expectation that He is listening.

**THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**—Genesis 18:17-33

The pending destruction of Sodom, Gomorrah, and the other settlements forming the area was not only a dramatic end to that sinful society but foreshadows the world's final judgment. God offered the opportunity to Sodom as a last chance for repentance. Abraham understood the depth of God's wrath. God was about to utterly eradicate these people from the face of the Earth. Abraham pled for the righteous to be saved, and perhaps he was stalling for time to allow more to repent. The persistence in the prayer of Abraham is what we should note. Abraham understood that he was given the right to negotiate with God. Abraham was willing to argue with God over the number of faithful necessary to save the towns. The sadness in this lesson is the end of the story. There are only three faithful people in all the towns. Only Lot and his two daughters left Sodom.

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

The Word of God is goes out, proclaimed by the Church of God.

**THE EPISTLE LESSON**—Colossians 2:6-19

There was the real possibility of the Colossians falling back to their old ways, back to sin. These warnings given by Paul were not merely rhetorical. The Colossians allowed themselves to be deceived by philosophy which depended on human tradition. Paul reminded them that Jesus spoke the Word of God because He is God. Jesus paid our debt of sin, "canceled the written code against us," just-so-that we are made free to be the children of God. Jesus did this all on the cross so that we never have to suffer the eternal death of hell. Paul's point was to encourage the Colossian Christians to continue to: live in Christ, study His Word, and communicate with God. They were to be persistent prayer, so that no one could take them captive through hollow philosophies.