

believing in things we don't understand. Our Gospel Lesson concerns understanding. We understand that this world of sin is nothing like the world of salvation. We understand that in this world we are given more than we need so that we can help others, and we understand that through our faith in Jesus (our fearless faith) we are able to depend on God for all things, especially to depend on His promise that Jesus will come again to take us to live with Him forever. Therefore as we watch and wait for the fulfillment we are made ready to receive the promise, never growing weary, as we know that everything God has ever promised, He has also fulfilled.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Ⓟ O Lord God, we know Your path is mercy and truth. Set Your secret in the hearts of those Whom You Love and incline Your ear to us and hear our prayer. We ask not for our righteousness nor in our name, but because You have caused us to carry the name which is above every other name, even Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. In Him is the secret of life, which is life eternal with You.

We praise You for the glorious Gospel of Your grace. According to all Your faithful promises, You sent Your Son, in the fullness of time. He died for our sins and rose again on the third day. For this we rejoice with joy unspeakable. In the fullness of Your glory, we recognize Jesus, for He is the beginning, middle and end of our faith, the source of our salvation.

Bestow the Holy Spirit on Your Church, O Lord. Send us forth into all the world bearing Your precious Gospel and preaching Jesus Christ, among all nations for the remission of sins and the expectation of eternal life. Save Your Church from all our enemies, evil workers, and perverters of the truth, that we may know and declare no other Gospel than the One to Whom we were delivered.

Hear the prayers of all the afflicted, the sorrowful and those who mourn, the needy and the homeless, the wounded and all in pain, the anxious and the despairing. Lead them all by Your mercy to a happy issue out of all their adversities. Teach us all to depend on You for all our life. Deliver us, O God, from every evil, of body or soul, property or character. In the end, when our last hour in this life comes, grant us a peaceful release and take us from this world of sorrow to that wonderful life with You in Heaven.

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

These and all other things necessary for our well being, grant us by Your infinite mercy and grace, in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord and Savior.

© Amen.

PROPER FOURTEEN

Chant Tone



Introit	
Sing to the Lord with thanks — giving;* make melody to our God on the lyre!	but the Lord takes pleasure in those who — fear Him,*
He covers the heavens with clouds; He prepares rain for the Earth;*	in those who hope in His steadfast love.
He makes grass grow on the hills. He gives to the beasts their food,* and to the young ravens — that cry.	But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol,* for He will re — ceive me.
His delight is not in the strength of the horse,* nor His pleasure in the legs of man,	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.
	Sing to the Lord with thanks — giving;* make melody to our God on the lyre!
	(Antiphon, Psalm 147:7; Psalm 147:8-11)

Collect of the Day

Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Oh, fear the Lord, | you His saints,*
for those who fear Him | have no lack!
Many are the afflictions of the — righteous,*
but the Lord delivers him out | of them all.

(Psalm 34:9, 19, alternative)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: We praise You, O Lord, in all circumstances. We will speak of the glory of Your grace to everyone we meet. We have been tested and are convinced that in everything You work for good with those who love You. This gives us courage, for which we humbly thank and praise You. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we may walk in the sacrificial Love with which Christ Loved us. May our lives be a sweet-smelling offering of continual thanksgiving. May we reflect to others the faith that believes we have true life here and an eternity of life together with You in Heaven. Help us always believe that Christ is our blessed assurance. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

"DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT YOUR LIFE...FOR LIFE IS MORE THAN FOOD...AND CLOTHING." The Readers Digest told the account of a man who suddenly found himself having fainting spells. His condition baffled the medical community. After much research and testing by his health care professionals, it was determined that his shirt collars were too tight. He had gained some weight, yet his vanity was causing him to continue to wear shirts that were too small. When he buttoned the top button to put on his tie, it squeezed his carotid arteries and cut down the blood supply to his brain. Eventually the lack of blood would cause him to pass out. Our sin has caused us to keep sinful worldly pleasures in our life. These sins, cut off the life giving supply of Love from God. It is worthy for us to listen to Jesus and set up our treasure not in this sinful earthly kingdom but look to the treasure God promises in the kingdom of Heaven.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Fearless Faith

INTROIT—(Antiphon, Psalm 147:7;) Psalm 147:8-11

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.

COLLECT

"Whatever does not proceed from faith is sin." (Romans 14:23) The only way we are able to, "offer acceptable service," is in the undeserved Love of God. We ask to always please God with our faith, and not be concerned about how that faith looks to the people of the world.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Genesis 15:1-6

God promised Abraham a son. As of the date in the our Old Testament Lesson, God had not fulfilled that promise. Abraham was lamenting that fact, and further was lamenting that someone other than a son, would inherit his stuff and the promise. God repeated the promise, this time speaking to Abraham in a vision. Abraham was able to hold to the promise, and believe the wonder of the message through his faith in God. He was therefore made ready to receive the promise of a son, and displayed his fearless faith.

GRADUAL—Psalm 34:9, 19, alternative

For a time, David pretended to be crazy. He was afraid of King Saul. Psalm 34 was written when he stopped pretending. David remembered to take refuge in God and remembered to depend on Him for deliverance. David remembered the power of God. David forgot that God is in control. When He remembered he was given the ability to come to God's blessing and was granted fearless faith, faith that made him call out in song.

EPISTLE LESSON—Hebrews 11:1-16

The author of Hebrews (I teach that Luke wrote Hebrews,) laid out the doctrine of faith. Faith is fearless, faith looks forward, faith looks toward something promised by God for which we do not at this moment have the proof. In our case faith looks forward to salvation in Jesus Christ, even though we only have the promise that if we believe and are Baptized we will be saved. We have been made ready to receive the promise and this waiting is with fearless faith.

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 12:22-40

In the song, "Superstition," Stevie Wonder said: "When you believe in things you don't understand, you suffer..." Jesus would never have us