

a mother's love that shows through, but her persistence in the face of the testing showed her faith in Jesus. He ignored her, then He taunted her. None of these were to test her. It would have done nothing for the woman to show she had faith. The test was for the benefit of those around her. The testing was for the apostles and disciples. They needed the lesson in humility and faith (being shown in a Gentile) to understand the depth and wisdom of God. Oh that we would stand in the face of a test by God. Then we would be shown as one who has persistence in faith.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O Lord, You are the light of Your people, the salvation of the world, the strength of those Whom You have called. We thank You for the gift of Your Word and for the gift of faith by which we are able to acknowledge all You have done for us in our creation, rebirth and continued sanctification. Listen now to the prayer of Your people, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

O Lord, You are mindful of all of our necessities, giving both the righteous and the ungodly their needs for the day. Help the redeemed understand the nature of Your providence and enable us to receive Your benefits with thanks.

Bless all the things You continue to give us each succeeding season. We especially ask Your favor and blessing that those gifts from You which support our bodies would be used by You to show forth Your Love and care. Keep us in health so that we are able to serve You in this life and in the world to come, feeding us on the Bread from Heaven, Christ our Savior.

Cause the Gospel to be preached in all lands and in every tongue. Maintain Your church as the place where Christ dwells in the true faith. Bless our schools, that all teachers may both acknowledge and serve You, and that all the students may find in You the treasure of life and truth. Give wisdom and counsel to all who serve in the government of this great land and exercise authority over us, so that we may worship and serve You without hindrance. Allow us always to live together in peace and righteousness.

To all who suffer sickness, pain, disease, affliction, or any adversity of body, mind, or spirit, give the strength that will enable them to bear their cross and the spirit of the One who taught us to say, "Thy will be done."

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (Time of silent prayer.) All this we ask in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our friend, our Lord, our Savior.
© Amen.

PROPER FIFTEEN

Chant Tone



| | |
|---|--|
| Introit The Lord is the strength of His — people;* He is the saving refuge of His — anointed. To you, O Lord, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me,* lest, if You be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit. Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to You for help,* when I lift up my hands toward Your most holy sanctu — ary. | Blessèd be the Lord!* for He has heard the voice of my pleas for — mercy. The Lord is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts and I am helped;* my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him. 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. The Lord is the strength of His — people;* He is the saving refuge of His — anointed. <i>(Antiphon, Psalm 28:8; Psalm 28:1-2, 6-7)</i> |
|---|--|

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; 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)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: In praise and adoration, O Lord, we come before You, our hearts filled with gratitude. Once again Your Almighty power has brought us safely through the night. In You, O Lord, we establish our trust; You shower down on us Your kindness and mercy. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we may readily embrace and ever held fast to Your Son Jesus Christ. As He gives us His flesh to eat and His blood to drink, help us recognize in Him the source of our life. May He abide in us and we in Him. May our faith in Him be reflected in our life. And may everyone, everywhere, come to know Jesus as the only hope for salvation. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

A FRIEND ADMITTED THAT SHE DOESN'T TRUST GOD. She said that in her prayers she asks God to take on her problems, and then she gets up off her knees, turns around and immediately goes back to her attempts to try to solve the very problems she asked God to take from her. Not many of us would believe in Jesus (and His work as God) so completely that we would be willing to continue to seek a healing from Him even after He rejected our request once or twice. The woman in the Gospel Lesson had to pray hard and had to believe that Jesus would do what she asked. She believed that He would give her what she asked, if not because of her need then because of her persistence. Which woman do you emulate?

THEME OF THE DAY:
Persistence In Prayer

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 28:8) Psalm 28:1-2, 6-7

This Psalm has the commentators pleasantly perplexed. David was obviously in great trouble, but at the same moment he gives praise to God for his deliverance. Others think that King David wrote after the deliverance while remembering the trouble. We have removed the middle of Psalm 28, and use it to complement our Gospel Lesson in which a woman in great trouble persisted in her prayer for deliverance, confident in Christ's ability to bring about the healing.

COLLECT

This pray was added in 2006 to better fit the theme of the day. We are thankful for the many blessings we receive, while acknowledging that in trial and temptation we need extra help to live in the wonder of God.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

God's word in Isaiah assures us that as God's chosen people we are not left out. He has opened His kingdom to all believers. Still it is for us to do the right thing: keep the Sabbath, hold fast the covenant. Isaiah was facing destruction all around. In the first section of his work the kingdom is being destroyed for faithless acts. They were tested and their lack of faith in God became apparent. In this last section Isaiah is proclaiming steadfastness. The kingdom will be destroyed but they are to show their patience in the promise of God and wait for His fulfillment. (However, they didn't do it very well.)

GRADUAL—Psalm 34:9, 19 alternative

We specifically use verses 9 and 19 of Psalm 34, for the next seven weeks, to bring us back to our fearless faith which comes to us in the power of Jesus. The use of the word, "fear," in the verse 9 is the Old English usage.

EPISTLE LESSON—Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32

Paul tells us to hold an attitude of earnest desire and outreach to all people. We are all locked in disobedience, why would God show mercy on us? Yet, He has through His Son. The problem of Israel's unbelief is that they could not stand under temptation. Instead of remaining with God and holding to the hope of the Son, they wandered off into the lust of their hearts. Salvation is by grace alone, not by being part of a family, or the chosen people. The test of our faith is obedience to God.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 15:21-28

Her daughter was sick. The news about Jesus had traveled far and wide. The woman, not one from inside the household of the Jews, came to Jesus expecting Him to heal her daughter. There is a certain situation of