

because of sin, the sin should be pointed out. We (applying the accolades of Paul) will then humble ourselves under the proclamation of our sin and repent. The bottom line in all of this isn't the agreeing to get along, it is instead that in agreeing we are able to seek a unified request from God. When we are all in agreement we are able to approach the throne of God with one request, one goal, and God in His will and purpose in the world will fulfill our request for the agreement.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O God, the living God, Your house is the place of rest and peace. We come to You this morning, drawn to You in prayer with true and believing hearts, minds and spirit.

We give thanks and praise for all Your goodness and mercy. We glorify You for the precious gift of Your Holy child Jesus, Whom You sent to deliver us from the due reward of our transgressions. We bless Your Holy name that through Jesus' Resurrection You have guaranteed us the crown of life.

Grant to us, O Father, faith in Your power and goodness, that we may always trust in You for all our daily needs and fulfill the duties of each day without fear and anxiety for tomorrow, knowing that You ordered all things according to Your will in Heaven and on Earth.

Change us through Your grace, O God, that we no longer seek the vanity of this world, nor follow the deceit of riches, but that we set our highest affection and desire on the things that pertain to Your kingdom and to the righteousness which is by faith and obedience. Open our minds to the understanding that our treasure is to be found in the richness of Christ, our most satisfying food, the Bread of Life, and our most glorious dress the garment of heavenly virtue.

Through all of life's short day, help our families with Your divine benediction and presence. Be with them in sorrow or joy, sickness or health, disappointment or success, and preserve them with Your grace. Forgive our sins, and teach us, O Lord, that You are a God of holiness and power, Who in righteousness and mercy rules the world and governs all people, and that in You we live and move and have our being.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)**
Waken us in body and spirit that we may do the work of faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

© Amen.

PROPER EIGHTEEN

Chant Tone



ENTRANCE PRAYER: Lord God, heavenly Father, with thanksgiving and praise we come before You. You have made known Your will in Your commandments. You have bestowed Your blessing on those who live by faith in Christ and seek to keep Your commands. By our own effort we cannot walk blamelessly before You, but through the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ we are lifted up to the place of Your Holy majesty. For making it possible to appear blameless before You, we give You humble and hearty thanks. May the hearing of Your Word and the use of Your Sacraments produce in us a living faith with love toward others for a willingness to tell them of Jesus. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO RECOGNIZE WHEN WE HAVE BEEN SINNED AGAINST. Sin is so pervasive in our life that what we think is a sin from another is probably our own sin, and sin is so pervasive in our life that we often take the blame for the sins of others when we should confront them. With that conflict in mind it is still important for us to explain to the people of the world that God established His Law. It is separation from the perfection of God's Law that causes sin. We the redeemed have the ability to recognize one important fact above all other, Jesus died, having taken on the punishment for our sin, just so that we would be made over into people who belong to Him. This faith is available to everyone who repents and believes in Jesus.

THEME OF THE DAY:
Together In The Word

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 92:5;) Psalm 92:1-4

Psalm 92 was written by David to be used on the Sabbath. Here he was celebrating God's works which are proclaimed to be unsearchable and unchangeable. We praise God, on this Holy Day, for His unchanging faithfulness which gives us our salvation.

COLLECT

We ask to accomplish God's will through our relationship with Jesus.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Ezekiel 33:7-9

Ezekiel was called to be the watchman for Israel. Ezekiel delivered a message of repentance. If the hearers turned from their sin, they were saved. Danger surrounds us because of sin. Our flesh, the world and Satan are constantly at work tearing us apart from the good and wonderful will of God. This is the call of God's servants. We are to deliver the message of repentance to disobedient people. There is a message within this message. As there is the obligation to tell others about their sin, there is also the obligation to listen to others as they tell us of our sin against them and against God.

GRADUAL—Psalm 34:9, 19 alternative

We continue with Psalm 34:9 and 19 to remind ourselves of fearless faith which comes to us in the power of Jesus, Who established the church as His personal possession for selfless service. The glory of God is evident in our discipleship. We are lost and alone without God. With Him we are given the honor of understanding His thoughts, goals and desires.

EPISTLE LESSON—Romans 13:1-10

This text speaks of authority and love. The "authority" of the ruler reminds us of the authority of God to forgive sins, and "love" fulfills the law. Paul repeats the message of Christ from Matthew 22:37-39, "Love your neighbor as yourself." We speak of God from the love in our heart, we speak of God from the obligation of the law and from the sense of our own forgiveness. Everything we do with our life is done in respectful subordination, even our respect for the governing authorities; those who have authority over us in the world. Before we can proclaim the faults of others we need to ensure that our life is in order. In all things we are to love one another even when we are in conflict, especially to prevent the conflicts of life.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 18:1-20

Matthew 18 is the tool of conflict, yet we are not to make Jesus into a new Law giver. The real point of Matthew 18 is the conflict of unbelief and sin. As Christians there is no room in our life for conflict, but when it comes