

sin is rife in our life. Both of these situations build up to keep us from doing the right thing. In encouraging Timothy to stay the course of faith, we see that Paul has taken on the understanding that comes through faith in Jesus Christ. Faith as small as a mustard seed, is enough faith to keep us always focused on God. If in our faith we needed a mountain moved, God would move it in answer to our prayer. If in our faith there was a reason not to forgive, God would back us completely and condemn eternally those who sin against us, yet in our faith we are told to forgive those who seek repentance for their sin. We forgive because God first forgave us.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O Lord God, heavenly Father, You are always among us, and You would never leave us or forsake us. We praise and glorify You for the infinite mercy which You made known in the unsurpassed gift, to us sinners, of Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. He came to put away our sins by the sacrifice of His flesh on the cross. Now, whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life. We thank You, O Father, for this committing of Your Love to us. You have completely delivered us from the power of sin and death, making us one with Jesus, and opening to us the very gates of Heaven.

Grant that, by Your truth, our minds may be renewed in righteousness and true holiness, that our consciences are established to acknowledge and choose the good, and that every thought, word, and deed we attempt will be made captive to the obedience of Christ. Give us the will and the power to walk in Your Way and live in harmony with Your Word and with each other. Pour Your grace on us that we are transformed into faithful, patient, people of prayer, able to say, "We are unworthy servants, we have only done what is our duty."

Fill Your Church with Your Spirit so that we will have a power, a knowledge and a wisdom that are above all mere human ingenuity and intellect. Give us great moral conviction, and an unshakable sympathy with all that is pure, all that is Holy, all that is true and good.

For all who are in any sickness, pain, anguish, or suffering; for all who are in any danger from within or without, we pray. Teach them to turn to You and wait for Your Mercy. Grant them your presence and a joyous deliverance out of all their trials. Let them walk in Your light all their days.

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

This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our refuge, our unity, our only expectation of eternal life.

© Amen.

PROPER TWENTY-TWO

Chant Tone



Introit

I hope for Your salvation, — O Lord,*
and I do Your com — mandments.

I rejoice | at Your word*
like one who | finds great spoil.

Seven times a day I — praise You*
for Your just and righ | teous decrees.

Great peace have those who | love Your law;*
nothing can make them — stumble.

My soul keeps Your testi — monies;*
I love them ex | ceedingly.

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.

I hope for Your salvation, — O Lord,*
and I do Your com — mandments.

*(Antiphon, Psalm 119:166;
Psalm 119:162, 164-165, 167)*

Collect of the Day

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, by Your grace hear the prayers of Your Church. Grant that those things which we ask in faith we may receive through Your bountiful mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

He will command His angels con | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.

Bless the Lord, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless His | holy name!

(Psalm 91:11; 103:1)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Lord of the universe, Creator of Heaven and Earth, Redeemer of mankind, and source of all power. We, Your humble servants, come before You in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior. Accept our praise and adoration for our creation, redemption, and sanctification. You have transplanted us from the wilderness of this world into the vineyard of Your heavenly kingdom. As branches of the Great Vine, Jesus Christ, we ask for Your Holy Spirit that we may have the power to accomplish Your purpose. Make us fruitful branches in Your vineyard, and help us produce fruit with joy. In the wonderful name of Jesus we pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

"IF YOUR BROTHER SINS, REBUKE HIM, AND IF HE REPENTS, FORGIVE HIM." We live in a sinful world. We are sinned against as often as we sin against others. It is important for us to point out the sin of others, for their benefit, especially if they do not know of their sin. "I didn't know," is not an excuse that will get one into Heaven anymore than it is an excuse the Judge in the courtroom will accept as our reason for committing a crime. Sin puts our eternal life in jeopardy (as sin is separation from God.) It is important for us to forgive the sins of those who come seeking repentance. As God has forgiven us, we are to forgive others, no matter how often we are called on to forgive. And lastly it is important for us to proclaim the forgiveness found in Jesus Christ. For only in the Gospel do we find perfect forgiveness that abounds to eternal life.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Repentance and Forgiveness

INTROIT—(Antiphon, Psalm 119:166;) Psalm 119:162, 164-165, 167
Psalm 119 was probably written by David. Some think it was a lifetime work as there are 22 sections (one for each letter of the Hebrew Alphabet.) Today's reading is brought to us by the letter, "shin." We praise God that the sovereign reign of God, is the path to peace and righteousness.

COLLECT

Two things are important: that we pray, and that we pray correctly. In faith the Holy Spirit initiates the prayer, in the name of Jesus, to God the Father. All true prayers are answered.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

We conjecture that Habakkuk was representing the grumbling of the people, and not his personal grumbling. Habakkuk wrote the words of both sides (the complaint of man and the answer from God) with equal fervor. It does however make us blink a little as we read the book. The section we have shows that the complaint of man has never changed over against God. We always complain that it looks as if only evil is rewarded in the world. However God's answer is that only the righteous live by their faith. In the end everything else will prove to be false. All this falls to Jesus' refrain in the New Testament, "Repent for the kingdom is at hand." We must avoid sin, even as it looks attractive, because in the end it is always the way of destruction.

GRADUAL—Psalm 91:11, 103:1

Psalm 91 and 103 were written by David. He intended that we would know (as from our Collect,) the mercy and pity of God. The world hates us works to harm us, but the love of God is shown in the fact that the angels were created to serve us. For that reason we bless the Lord with all our soul.

EPISTLE LESSON—2 Timothy 1:1-14

Paul reminded Timothy to rekindle the gift of God within him. That gift is faith and its righteousness which comes from the Lord through His Word. Lack of faith leads to fear, anger, anxiety, and a timid spirit. On the other hand God is the one who encourages our strength through our faith in Him. Paul was a prisoner and facing certain death. The book of 2 Timothy is sometimes called Paul's last will and testament. We teach that he was killed shortly after writing 2 Timothy. Paul was not angry with his captors. He encouraged Timothy to stand firm in the faith and in the Gospel.

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 17:1-10

"Increase our faith." In our Old Testament lesson the people complained that God didn't punish the sinners fast enough. The Gospel shows that