

commandment in the Law?" Jesus put Deuteronomy 6:5, ("You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might,") together with Leviticus 19:18, ("you shall love your neighbor as yourself,") and called it the summary of the law. Leviticus 19:18 ends with the Words, "I am the Lord." Jesus didn't speak those Words, but the Pharisees knew how it ended. Later Jesus tripped up the Pharisees with His own question in comments about David. David called the Lord both Son and God. Jesus pointed out that He was able to answer all their questions because He is God! Jesus pointed out that it was He Who would fulfill the whole Law of God for them by Loving them so much that He willed Himself to the cross, even with the sin of their (and our) doubt. Sadly, for the majority of those listening this only made them angry driving them to make the plot to kill Jesus.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O Lord God, You are the Rock of our salvation and the fountain of all truth. We come before You, trusting that You will hear us. Accept our praise and thanks for Your kindness and undeserved Love. For the light of another day and the protection of the past night, we give You thanks. For making it possible for us to delight in Your Law and Gospel, we are thankful.

Grant us, as we come to You in faith and prayer, the indwelling of Your Holy Spirit. By His gracious influence allow us to escape the corruption that is in the world. Take us away from our lust and pride so that we will bear the fruit of true goodness. Help us as we search Your Word, so that we are able to grow in the knowledge of You and of Your will and in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us walk before You according to Your will, steadfast in faith and love, abounding in spiritual understand and patience, and strengthened for ever work of kindness and charity.

Bless our homes and defend them against all strife and discord. Grant that our children know and love Jesus as He came to give them abundant life. Give all parents the grace to lead them to the feet of the Lord Jesus by the example of words and life.

We ask for Your mercy on all the sick, the sorrowing and the suffering. Support them in their trials and deliver them by Your goodness, that, being made whole in body and spirit, they will always trust in the comfort of Your Fatherly care. Be those who could not join us in worship today.

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

According to Your promise, the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. Give us diligence in truth and holiness so that we will always do the things of Your will in Your kingdom, and rightly worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in Whose name we pray.

© Amen.

## PROPER TWENTY-FIVE

### Chant Tone



### Introit

For the needy shall not always be  
for — gotten,\*  
and the hope of the poor shall not  
perish for — ever.

I will give thanks to the Lord with my  
— whole heart,\*  
I will recount all of Your won | derful  
deeds.

I will be glad and ex | ult in You;\*  
I will sing praise to Your name,  
| O Most High.

The Lord is a stronghold for | the  
oppressed,\*  
a stronghold in times of — trouble.  
And those who know Your name put  
their | trust in You,\*  
for You, O Lord, have not forsaken  
those who — seek You.

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.

For the needy shall not always be  
for — gotten,\*  
and the hope of the poor shall not  
perish for — ever.

(Antiphon: Psalm 9:18;  
Psalm 9:1-2, 9-10)

### Collect of the Day

O God, You have commanded us to love You above all things and our neighbors as ourselves. Grant us the Spirit to think and do what is pleasing in Your sight, that our faith in You may never waver and our love for one another may not falter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

### Gradual

For 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:** Almighty and Everlasting God, we pray that You would send Your Word triumphantly into the world that it would surround us with Your spiritual kingdom and a blessed Gospel Ministry. Graciously guard us against divisions and heresies. Give us thankful hearts that we may love Your Holy Word, prize it highly, hear it reverently and improve our lives accordingly. Make us live in accordance with Your Word, meet its demands and through our love for Your Word, and allow us to day by day increase in Your good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**THE END OF OCTOBER ALWAYS SETS OUR MINDS ON THE DATE OF THE REFORMATION.** On OCTOBER 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed the 95 theses to the church door in Wittenburg and set off the rediscovery of Justification by grace through faith. It isn't as if God ever forgot, but the church at the time of Luther had become more involved in the doctrine of our works. They were teaching that our participation in our own justification is necessary for salvation. Just the opposite is true. Justification is the act of being granted by God the faith to believe that the works of Jesus bring full atonement for the sins of the world. We receive His work vicariously in the water and Word of our Baptism.

**THEME OF THE DAY:**

Love The Lord, Love Your Neighbor

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Psalm 9:18;) Psalm 9:1-2, 9-10

In Psalm 9 David was praising God for his personal victories and for the victories God allowed the nation to achieve. In verse 18 David invites us to join him in singing the praise. (In the Bible this Psalm has the word "muthlabben" in the title. That was a musical instrument on which the music for this Psalm was played. We have no information on the sound of a muthlabben.)

**COLLECT**

The Propers for this Sunday are from the first revision in the late 1960's, this prayer was added in the 2006 revision and more accurately lines up with the "love," theme. We simply ask to love God and love one another in a manner that pleases God.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**—Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18

Jesus repeats verse 18 in our Gospel Lesson today. John 3:16 speaks of God's Love. Jesus fulfilled His command to "Love your neighbor as yourself," in ways we don't even understand. When we keep love in our heart, knowing that we have been first, Loved by God, we are able to keep all of the commands of God perfectly and holy.

**GRADUAL**—Psalm 91:11, Psalm 103:1

This is our last week with Psalm 91:11 and 103:1. We are kept in Love by God. Both of these Psalms were written by David to be used in worship.

**EPISTLE LESSON**—1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

One of the things we Lutherans tend to do, is use the last Sunday in October as our Reformation remembered Sunday. We very rarely use these Proper 25 lessons. Today we read all but three verses of chapter 2 of First Thessalonians. Paul had a habit of cramming so much information into a sentence that we have trouble unpacking the words. In this case Paul reminded the Thessalonians of the manner in which he came among them; "gently." Then he reminded them of the manner of his preaching; "fatherly." Then, Paul reminded them of the effect of his work; "conversion." We use this reading to match our theme. Paul did all of his work among all the people in love and gracious concern for their salvation.

**GOSPEL LESSON**—Matthew 22:34-46

Verses 34-39 and 41-45 only fit together because of the results of verse 46, ("...no one dare(d) to ask Him any more questions." The Pharisees were constantly trying to gain power. The Sadducees were in the majority. They thought they could make themselves look good by tripping up Jesus with a question about the Law. Jesus answered the question: "what is the greatest