

God with our actions. We have nothing He needs. Two men went into the temple to pray. One of the man tried to impress God with His good works. The other man only wanted to be forgiven because he realized that none of his works were good. Martin Luther reawakened the world to the truth of the Gospel. The Gospel is God's power to save. We are gifted this salvation not because of our works, for the works of our hands are a shameful thing, but because of the work and the person of Jesus Christ our Savior. As sinners we have nothing about our life that would suggest that God is standing with us. In our faith we are given the guarantee that God is with us in all things. The humility of prayer is in the recognition.

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.

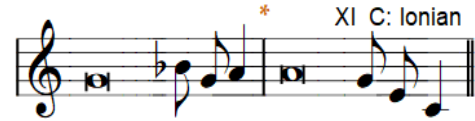
Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (Time of silent prayer.)

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



<p>Introit When I am afraid,* I put my trust in You.</p> <p>In God, Whose word I praise,* in the Lord, Whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.* What can man do to me? I must perform my vows to You, —O God,* I will render thank offerings — to You.</p>	<p>For You have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from —falling,* that I may walk before God in the light of life.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>When I am afraid,* I put my trust in You.</p> <p><i>(Antiphon, Psalm 56:3; Psalm 56:10-13)</i></p>
---	--

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, You are always more ready to hear than we to pray and always ready to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour down on us the abundance of Your mercy; forgive us those things of which our conscience is afraid; and give us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask except by the merits and mediation of 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we pray that You 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, 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, both now and forever. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE END OF OCTOBER ALWAYS SETS OUR MINDS ON THE REFORMATION, 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 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. We welcome all who are called out by God to worship in His Holy Church on this day.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Humble Prayer

INTROIT—(Antiphon, Psalm 56:3;) Psalm 56:10-13

David was in great peril when he wrote Psalm 56. He was being hunted by King Saul, David fled to the land of the Philistines. (Perhaps he had forgotten about Goliath, but they hadn't.) In this Psalm, he alternated between begging for mercy, from God against his enemies, and showing his confidence that God would keep him safe and make him victorious. We use the verses that speak of victory for our Introit today. Have no fear, God is always making the best of every situation.

COLLECT

For our 2006 revision to the Propers, we took the Collect and Gospel Lesson from its historic place of Trinity 11 and moved it to Proper 25. Together with the historic church we pray to be corrected for our prayer. We ask to be forgiven for the things we are too afraid to mention and be given the things we are too afraid to ask.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Genesis 4:1-15

We must exert authority over our sin. Make your sin bow in submission to your faith. This is much easier to say than to practice, but it is the message of Genesis 4. If we allow our sin to rule us, we will end up in the same place as Cain. For whatever reason he was jealous of his brother. Even after a clear statement from God, to solve the jealousy issue Cain murdered Abel. Cain allowed his emotions to rule his life and fell into multiple sins. Sin is separation from God.

GRADUAL—Psalm 91:11, Psalm 103:1

This is our last week with Psalm 91:11 and 103:1. They compliment the Introit with the concept of being kept in Love by God. Both of these Psalms were written by David to be used in worship.

EPISTLE LESSON—2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

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. Our Epistle lesson is simply here because it is the next (and last) reading from 2 Timothy. Paul was writing the last words as he was very likely executed for his faith. It is always painful to be abandoned (especially when you have been doing the right thing.) Paul points out that even though everyone else abandoned him, God has always been with him. God is always with us.

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 18:9-17

This section of Luke 18 speaks to a situation Martin Luther confronted in his life with God. We are not worthy of gifts from God. Nor do we impress