

Zaccheus was a Jew. However, he was collecting taxes for the Romans and therefore was something of an outcast from among the Jews. The commentator, Matthew Henry said, "God has his remnant among all sorts. Christ came to save even the chief of publicans." There are two really fun things about this account. 1 Jesus had just finished telling the parable of the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14) and 2 Jesus had just finished saying how difficult it is for the rich to enter the kingdom (Luke 18:24-25.) Zaccheus was the embodiment of these two and yet, because of his faith, Jesus declares him to be a "son of Abraham."

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O Almighty God, You say, through Your Beloved Son: Blessèd are those who hear God's Word. O merciful and Eternal God, it would be better for us gladly to call You blessèd and to praise and thank You for having made Yourself known to us sinners in such a friendly and Fatherly way. You speak to us of the greatest and highest things, which are Eternal Life and blessèdness. You do not fail to call us graciously through Your Son to hear Your Word.

We are dust and ashes and stand in need of Your Word a thousand times more than we can hear. O how inexpressibly wonderful and great are Your goodness and patience. O how pitiful is the thanklessness and total blindness of those who not only fail to hear Your Word but also maliciously despise, persecute, and blaspheme it.

O God, the Father of all poor, forlorn souls, grant all of us Your grace and enlighten us with Your truth. Send us Your Holy Spirit, O Lord, that He may help us listen and hear the Words that lead to Eternal Life. Cause us to walk by faith in Your promises, and grant that others may be inclined to follow and so find in Jesus Christ the truth of Your Gospel, and keep the light of faith burning in our hearts.

We ask for all people everywhere: For those in authority we ask that they may have respect for Your Holy will; For all who do not know Jesus, that they would hear and believe the Gospel; for any who are in danger, that they would be preserved from harm. Let everyone everywhere live in Your heavenly peace.

We ask You to bless all who trust in the merits of Jesus Christ for salvation. Have mercy on all who call on Your name this day. Bless our charitable efforts that Christ's name would be glorified. Forgive us our trespasses, support the weak, correct the disobedient and grant Your healing for all illness.

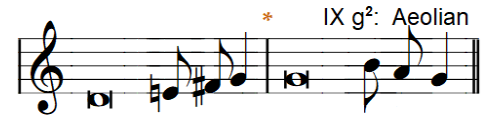
Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)**

May we realize Your presence among us as Your Love draws us ever closer to our heavenly home.

© Amen.

PROPER TWENTY-SIX

Chant Tone



Introit The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glo rifies Me;* to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salva tion of God! The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and sum mons the Earth* from the rising of the Sun to its — setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of — beauty,* God — shines forth. Offer to God a sacrifice of thanks — giving,* and perform your vows to the — Most High,	and call upon Me in the day of — trouble;* I will deliver you, and you shall glo rify Me. 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 one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glo rifies Me;* to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salva tion of God! <i>(Antiphon, Psalm 50:23; Psalm 50:1-2, 14-15)</i>
---	---

Collect of the Day

O Lord, stir up the hearts of Your faithful people to welcome and joyfully receive Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, that He may find in us a fit dwelling place; Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu — lation.*
They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.
Blessèd are those whose strength is — in You,*
in whose heart are the highways to — Zion.

(Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5)

Scripture quotations are from the HOLY BIBLE, ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION® ESV© Copyright© 2000; 2001 by Crossway Bibles, A Division of Good News Publishers, used by permission. All Rights Reserved.

ENTRANCE PRAYER: O Eternal God, You have given to Your Church many precious gifts, brought us into Your kingdom by the "Means of Grace," and blessed our work through the power of the Holy Spirit. We thank You for the opportunities to serve as helpers in Jesus Christ. May we serve You with a humble and quiet spirit, that our labors may be blessed to the glory of Your name. May we never grow weary in doing well, but continue to treasure every opportunity to be kind to the poor, hospitable to Your saints, and generous in our giving, until that great day when our worship and service will be done before Your Eternal throne. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

DOUG WAS VERY CONCERNED. Through no effort on his part he had become very wealthy. Doug had a talent as a photographer. His work was used bringing in residuals as his photos were used on magazine covers. Doug was worried because he wanted to go to Heaven. He had taken the warning of Luke 18 to mean that the wealthy were somehow excluded from Heaven. To God's credit I had just moments before been reading the account of Zaccheus. We chatted about how difficult it was for the wealthy to believe in anything but their wealth, as in the account of the "Rich Fool." (Luke 12) However Zaccheus shows that, even if wealth is a stumbling block, it is faith that saves. Dave Ramsey often points out that the advantage of wealth is the ability to be a generous giver.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Sacrifice of Thanksgiving

INTROIT—(Antiphon, Psalm 50:23;) Psalm 50:1-2, 14-15

This is titled, "A psalm of Asaph." We know that all the Psalms were set to music. We do not know what instruments were played or the sound of the music. Asaph set David's Psalms to music. In this case it is thought that Asaph, himself, wrote Psalm 50. This is a statement of instruction. It is never enough to believe that we are righteous because of our works. It is the work of Jesus and our faith in Him that redeems us.

COLLECT

In our prayer we ask to be, "stirred up," that is emotionally aroused to live our lives in holiness, here, that our bodies would be the place (the new Temple,) where our Christ will dwell.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 1:10-18

Wow! This is the first time that any part of Isaiah chapter 1 have been used in worship and perhaps you can see why. God calls the Chosen People citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah (two places that were destroyed by God for their lack of faith. Isaiah was sent to a people who had dumped the One True God and were beginning to worship other gods with holy days in an attempt to blend in with their neighbors. God was obviously not happy with them. These people continued to assume that they were safe because they were Abraham's children. They had died to their faith and were in need of being stirred up.

GRADUAL—Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5

Those who have come out of the tribulation of this world are those who have been given faith. These people praise God for all they have been given. Revelation 7 tells us the number of the saved. As such it is of great encouragement. Psalm 84, by the Sons of Korah was written for worship. Our faith is the highway that has been laid out in our heart to take us to Heaven.

EPISTLE LESSON—2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

This is the exact opposite of our Old Testament Lesson. Paul was commending and encouraging the congregations of Thessalonica in the wonder faith in Jesus. These were Christians, some of whom were giving up everything for their faith. Paul does get a little graphic (apocalyptic) in his description of the destruction God would unleash on those who persecuted the faithful.

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 19:1-10

The account of Zaccheus is only mentioned here in the Gospel of Luke. As a curiosity, his name in Greek translates as "pure" or "innocent."