

those who have at one time believed and (were) going forth with the church to meet the Bridegroom, yearning for His return...they have fallen away when tested by affliction. ...We believers need the renewing strengthening influences of the Means of grace, by which God keeps our lamps of faith from going out, and must under no circumstances neglect to use and draw life from them. His Word brings to us believers the Gospel of the kingdom, impressing upon us that He has been merciful to us sinners, for the sake of Christ, and that this means that the Redeemer is coming to give us a crown of glory that will not fade away." (Concordia Journal)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Ⓟ O Almighty God and heavenly Father, You are Holy and Righteous. Your glory fills the sky, and Your power holds the universe together. Your mercy is from everlasting to everlasting and Your truth endures throughout all generations. Be with Your people at all times and in all places Lord and hear us now as we bring our petitions and give voice to our intercession.

We thank You for all Your mercy. Your kindness is new each day. We praise You for the light of Your Word, by which You have illuminated our darkness. We glorify You for all the benefits You continue to give us in this life. We most heartily thank You for the gift of the sacrifice of Your Son Jesus Christ, Who took on the form of our servant, humbling Himself as a man, being obedient to death, the death on the cross, in order that we would receive release from the punishment of our sin, and being thus absolved, have the assurance of life everlasting with the certainty of the resurrection of our bodies in the last day.

Deliver us from the tribulations of this world with its false christs and false prophets, its heresies and divisions, its lies and deceit, its wars and oppressions, its fighting and calamities, its bloodshed and pain. Grant that we would hide from all these in the body of Christ.

We ask You to look in mercy on all the sick and any who are stricken in body, mind, or spirit. Set Your presence for all those for whom we pray, heal them according to Your Love and their need, and if it be Your will that we must continue with our "thorns" give us the patience to endure and the peace to carry on in our place.

Forgive us for the sake of Christ, and give us the peace that passes all understanding, the joy that no one can take from us and the expectation of salvation that never fades away.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (Time of silent prayer.) These and the unspoken needs of our hearts, we bring to You in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

© Amen.

PROPER TWENTY-SEVEN

Chant Tone



**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** O Lord, we have once again come to the end of another Church Year, with all Your grace out poured and surrounding us. Absolve us of another year of sin, absolve us of another year of falling and rising and falling again. Send us Your Holy Spirit that He may keep us alert and prepared to meet Christ, who will come as a Bridegroom to claim His bride, the Church. Continue through another year of Your mercy to keep us ever safe and secure in the comfort of Your Love and bind our hearts and minds to Your walk in Your Way; 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.)

**ALTHOUGH "OCTO"BER SHOULD BE THE EIGHTH MONTH (as in octagon) WE CALL IT THE TENTH.** Even though the calendar says that December is the last month of the year, the Church says November is the last month. As we transition out of the old Church Year and into the new Church Year, we listen to the lessons that give us the Words concerning our need to be prepared for the Second Advent of Christ. Today we find the ten virgins asleep when the bridegroom came, five were sleeping but prepared, five were sleeping and not prepared. As we do not know the day and the hour of the Second Coming, our faith keeps us prepared to receive Him in His Glory. While we wait there is plenty of time for Bible Study and worship. We welcome all who have come to be in this House of worship on this Sunday.

**THEME OF THE DAY:**

Patient Faith

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Psalm 84:3;) Psalm 84:1, 9-12

We are using a bit of a mosaic of Psalm 84. It is thought that David wrote Psalm 84 when his third son Absalom, forced the king to flee Jerusalem. King David was singing of his affection for God Who (by allowing David's most trusted general to find him, and by causing Absalom's great pride, his hair to become entangled in a tree) was able to regain the throne.

**COLLECT**

The last three Sundays of the Church Year make us eschatological people, (looking for the end of the world.) We ask for the fulfillment of the promise of the second coming of Christ who will take us home to Heaven.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**—Amos 5:18-24

Amos lived during the history recorded in 2 Kings 14—15/2 Chronicles 26. Though he was of the tribe of Judah, he did his work among the Northern areas (Bethel.) God sent Amos to warn the 10 Northern Tribes that they were falling into apostasy. He was opposed in his work by Amaziah the priest of Bethel. In this section he reminded the people of the enormity of the power of God, in that He made the stars, and then Amos, enumerated their many sins. This message from God ends with the exhortation to: "hate evil, and love good," These people had forgotten the God of their fathers and would eventually be abandoned by God for their unbelief.

**GRADUAL**—Revelation 7:14; 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. (Verse 9 tells us it is: "...a great multitude that no one could number...") Psalm 84, by the Sons of Korah was written for worship. Our faith is the highway, laid out in our heart to take us to Heaven.

**EPISTLE LESSON**—1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The Old Testament and Epistle Lessons are new to our three year cycle, and the Gospel Lesson has been moved from the Last Sunday. We have made this Sunday a statement of the constancy of waiting and watching. Faith does not grow weary. The Thessalonians had gotten ahead of themselves in their expectation of the end-of-the-world. Paul had to reign them in a little telling them that those who die before the end will still participate in the events of the Resurrection.

**GOSPEL LESSON**—Matthew 25:1-13

"The meaning of this parable is that faith is as necessary and indispensable as oil was for lamps in the wedding processions. The foolish virgins...are