

us to realize that God will find us no matter where we are or what we are doing and call us out to follow Him. The call of Matthew is a little more dramatic in that Matthew is being called to be one of the Twelve. It is further important that Jesus "ate" with the people who are called "sinners." With the faith we are giving by the Holy Spirit, we are made acceptable to God. Then the encounter with John's Disciples. Jesus calls Himself the Bridegroom, which applies to Him a Messianic name. And lastly the wonderful statement that, "no one puts old wine in new wine skins." In the water and Word of your Baptism you were changed. The old man drowned in the water and what came out was a new, clean, "clothed with righteousness," forgiven person, who is worthy of life in Heaven.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© Blessed are You, O Lord, and blessed is Your Holy name. You forgive all our iniquities and heal our diseases. You redeem us from destruction and crown us with steadfast Love and mercy. You renew our youth like the eagle's by satisfying us with good things. You do not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our sins. Accept, O Lord, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

We confess that our lives have not always been letters of recommendation. We have often been guilty of trying to keep the letter of the Law, while forgetting its spirit. As the example of Christ to a world lost in religious confusion, our testimony leaves much to be desired. We have often attempted to mend the flaws in our lives with patches of our own good works. For our failure to live up to Your expectations, forgive us, O Lord.

Visit us with Your Holy Spirit, and change our hearts to love You more completely. Help us rejoice in Your mercy as revealed to us by Your Son Jesus Christ. Grant us serenity in the midst of trials and afflictions. Give us power to be worthy examples of Your Love in a loveless world. Permeate the councils of nations and of our own nation with Your Spirit of justice, mercy, and forgiveness.

Through Your beloved Son Jesus Christ, You have revealed Your Word in the flesh. Send us Your Holy Spirit that we may hear Him speaking to us in Your Word. Give us the courage to hold high the light of Your Word to those who sit in darkness, and bless it in the hearts of those who hear it.

Extend Your healing hand to the sick, Your presence to the lonely, and Your assurance of everlasting life to the bereaved.

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

In the most Holy name of Jesus we pray.

© Amen.

PROPER THREE

Chant Tone



<p>Introit Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness,* and let Your saints shout for joy.</p> <p>For the Lord has chosen — Zion;* He has desired it for His dwelling place: "This is My resting place for — ever;* here I will dwell, for I have de sired it. I will abundantly bless her pro — visions;* I will satisfy her poor with bread. Her priests I will clothe with sal — vation,* and her saints will shout for joy.</p>	<p>There I will make a horn to sprout for — David;* I have prepared a lamp for my a — nointed. His enemies I will clothe with shame,* but on him his crown will shine."</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>Let your priests be clothed with righteousness,* and let your saints shout for joy.</p> <p><i>(Antiphon, Psalm 132:9; Psalm 132:13-18)</i></p>
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Collect of the Day

Merciful Father, You have given Your only Son as the sacrifice for sinners. Grant us grace to receive the fruits of His redeeming work with thanksgiving and daily to follow in His way; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Great is the Lord, and greatly | to be praised,*
and His greatness is un | searchable.
on Your wondrous works, I will | meditate.*
and I will declare Your — greatness.

(Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Lord God, You know what I am. Give me the courage to face the truth about myself. Keep me from pride and deceit. Do not permit me to make my life counterfeit or to hide behind some cheap pretense. In the crucified Christ let me see the depth of my sin, the grossness of my selfishness, and the judgment of death I deserve. In the risen Christ let me see the new life You have given me by Your grace, experiencing the deliverance from my old self and the freedom to live for You. With the mind of Christ ruling me, let me be honest with You, with myself, and with all people. In the exalted name of Christ I pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THIS SUNDAY OF PROPER THREE CAME INTO EXISTENCE IN 2006. Our new three year cycle of readings has located the lessons to the weeks of the year, and for that reason we ended up with an extra Sunday at the beginning. It must be May 28, 2004, because that is the next time these Propers will be used in worship. If this is in fact 2004, please be aware that I am either 129 years old or I have been living with Jesus for a good number of years. The good news is that "no one puts old wine into new wine skins," which in my case means I was received into Heaven as a new person. This came about by the work of Jesus Who gave His perfect life for my imperfect life, and in the work of the Holy Spirit Who changed me in the water and Word of my Baptism. Changed me into the new man who belongs in Heaven with God the Father forever.

THEME OF THE DAY:

A New Beginning

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 132:9;) Psalm 132:13-18

Psalm 132 was likely written by Solomon for the dedication of the Temple. In worship, we anticipate that God is listening. Solomon's prayer, then, is that we are righteous and heard. The New Testament Church takes verses 13-18 as applying to us. Because of the failure of the Chosen People to receive the "horn" of David (Jesus) the Holy Spirit has made us over into the Zion of faith. The Holy Spirit Dwells in us as the dwelling place. We are therefore blessed and crowned to shine.

COLLECT

The prayer today serves three purposes: 1 Proper 3 is brand new, so the pray is a brand new for the liturgy, 2 It begins by mentioning the sacrifice of Christ to set us into that mood of remembrance, and 3 We ask to remember all of this so we can daily follow Jesus.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Hosea 2:14-20

Hosea was the last of the Northern Kingdom Prophets. The Northern Tribes disappeared into captivity and dispersion for their unfaithfulness. It is a difficult book to read because of the constant recounting of the sins of the people. We have plucked the (only) verses that proclaim the mercy of God on the people. God states that "in that day," He will make them over into people whom He will make acceptable. Of course, "in that day" refers to the work and the person of Jesus, who has made us over into people who are Christians, those who believe and are saved.

GRADUAL—Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b

Psalm 145 is titled, "David's Psalm of Praise." (The last 5 Psalms are all hymns of praise.) In this Psalm, David, concentrated on the Greatness of God and the proofs of the administration of His kingdom as that which we are to praise. In our case, this means that we meditate on the grace and mercy of God that allows us to be His Disciples.

EPISTLE LESSON—Acts 2:14a, 36-47

We added this lesson as a continuation from Trinity's reading. Peter quoted Psalm 16. Peter quoted it as a direct prophecy of the death and Resurrection of Jesus, and proof of His status as God; One with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 2:13-22

Matthew Henry in his commentary suggests that the reason Jesus went to the sea when He was preaching is because the crowds who came to hear Him were so great in number that no building or town could hold their number. Here we have the call of Matthew, which is important for