

the popularity of Jesus grew, He was accused of working for Satan (or even being Satan.) His family ended up doubting His mental condition and the leadership questioned the source of His power. In our weakness we question Jesus and His purpose for the world. We create scenarios as reasons for the work and person of Jesus. In our weakness we fail to recognize Jesus as God and instead accuse Him of working for His own interests. Jesus testified to His strength, the strength of God. Jesus told us that He is able to make us over. Taking us out of our weakness as strangers to God and making us over into members of His family, brothers and sisters of Jesus, and the eternal children of God.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Ⓟ Lord God, heavenly Father, we come before You with thanksgiving and praise. We praise You for our creation, preservation, and redemption. We thank You for raising Your Son Jesus Christ from the dead and for preparing a place eternally in the Heaven for all those who trust in Your Son as their Savior. We are grateful that You made us brothers and sisters with and in Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit.

We confess, O Lord, that we have often attempted to hide from You. Our sins have often broken the line of communication between us. We claim to be Your children through faith in our brother Jesus, but we have often failed to do Your will. We have not always behaved as members of Your family and have often permitted Satan to drive a wedge of division between us. For giving the world the impression that Your kingdom is divided against itself, forgive us, O Lord.

May Your Holy Spirit never leave us or forsake us. When we stray from Your fold graciously search us out and find us. When troubles and afflictions seem greater than we can bear, help us to remember that our mortal bodies are only the temporary dwelling place of Your Spirit. Keep in our hearts and minds the assurance that You have built for us an eternal home in Heaven. When the time of our departure from this Earth draws near, take us to live with You eternally.

We pray for our leaders in both state and church, teach them to be faithful to Your truths. Be with the sick, the lonely, and the depressed, teach them that even though our outer bodies are wasting away, through You our spirit is getting stronger in Your grace.

Set Your will over all lands and nations, and let it be a sign that You are the author of all history, life and people. Establish that everyone look to You for truth.

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

We ask these favors in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

© Amen.

PROPER FIVE

Chant Tone



<p><b>Introit</b> Blessèd   be the Lord!* For He has heard the voice of my pleas for — mercy. The Lord is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and   I am helped;* My heart exults, and with my song I give   thanks to Him. The Lord is the strength of His — people;* He is the saving refuge of His an — ointed.</p>	<p>Oh, save Your people and bless Your — heritage!* Be their shepherd and carry them for — ever  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.  Blessèd   be the Lord!* For he has heard the voice of my pleas for — mercy.  <i>(Antiphon, Psalm 28:6; Psalm 28:7-9)</i></p>
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Collect of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, Your Son Jesus triumphed over the prince of demons and freed us from bondage to sin. Help us to stand firm against every assault of Satan, and enable us always to do Your will; 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:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, You are our strength and our sustaining power. We thank You for the proclamation of Your glory. Give us, we pray, ears to hear the music of Your creation and eyes to see the wonders of Your glory. Bless our homes, that they may be schools of true wisdom and harbors of true love. Let all who abide in the homes that You have so blessed, find peace and joy in harmony with You and each other. Help us believe that through our faith in Your Son Jesus Christ we can overcome all our problems. Hear our prayer, O Father, and if there is anything else we should have asked, grant it to us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Intercessor. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**THE FALL INTO SIN TOOK MUCH AWAY FROM US, THINGS THAT ARE ONLY REPLACED THROUGH THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST.**

The greatest loss was our perfect communion with God. We were created in communion with God, but in the fall into sin, we took the first act of hiding from God. As crazy as it seems, Jesus came into the world, God took up the form of our sinful flesh, and in His perfection, in His perfect righteousness, won for us the right and the privilege to come to God with our praise and worship. God has called us out of the world and receives our worship as the perfect act of a perfect people through Jesus.

**THEME OF THE DAY:**

Family of Christ

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Psalm 28:6;) Psalm 28:7-9

In the first half of Psalm 28, David laid out his trouble, his, "cry for mercy." Without waiting for God to actually deliver Him, in the second half of Psalm 28 (which makes up our Introit for today,) David praised God for the deliverance he was seeking. It is unlikely that David was delivered that quickly, but David spoke in the promise of God that if we pray, He will hear. If we need Him, He will deliver us. The final verses (8-9,) are the most interesting. David turned completely from his (I, me,) needs, to a general prayer for the deliverance of God's people.

**COLLECT**

We ask God to lead us to think and act in His will by being allowed to be His disciple.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**—Genesis 3:8-15

The powerful Creator of the cosmos was in a personal relationship with Adam and Eve. Satan promised Adam and Eve that they would become strong (their eyes would be opened.) Instead they became weak. They saw that they were naked. They saw that they were weak and in need of God. In their weakness God promised them deliverance from His strength. He would be their Savior, born in human flesh.

**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**—2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1

Paul was discussing his ministry as the Apostle to the Corinthians. Paul continued to speak of the power and weakness in his ministry. Paul's faith knew that God would raise and present him and the Corinthians together on the Last Day. All of the weakness of Paul, the hardships, the preaching, the grace overflowed from the strength of God. Paul and all Christians recognize that even as our body is wasting away in the weakness of sin, death and Satan, the strength of God renews us every day to the wonder of salvation. (Which was assured to us in the water and Word of our baptism.

**GOSPEL LESSON**—Mark 3:20-35

We encounter the religious leaders in their opposition to the work and person of Jesus. This week we also see the response of His family. As