

Those who confess Jesus in this world will be acknowledged before God in Heaven. This is the greatest comfort for it is evidence that Satan, sin and death do not overcome believers. For those who are weak or who do not confess Christ as they should or who may even deny Christ as Peter did, there is forgiveness and restoration. The world's evil powers can only take life from the body. God holds power over body and soul. If God does not forget a single bird or a single hair on a believer's head, then it is proved that we are more valuable than all of creation. When Jesus gave His life in exchange for our death on the cross, He gave us the eternal promise of our value to God.

© O Lord of all power and grace, Your eyes are on those You have made righteous and Your ears are open to their cry. Hear the prayer of Your people as we come to You now in thankfulness for the mercies which You pour down on us anew each and every day.

We thank You for Your gifts of mighty providence and the daily and manifold miracle of supplying the needs of all creatures, great and small. You open Your hand and give us what we need, in season and out of season. Make us mindful, O Lord, that You are the source of our daily bread, even as You provide us with life, breath and being.

Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we will produce the fruits of righteousness. May He endow us with unwavering faith, so that we are always ready to do Your will. Multiply grace, peace and all spiritual knowledge in Your Church. Raise up a Ministry that will seek souls for salvation, willing to forsake all selfish concerns and follow Your Son wherever He leads. Give unity of heart and spirit to Your people, O God, and that they may inherit Your blessing and not come under Your judgment. Let us manifest the Spirit of Christ in all things. Defend and preserve Your servants wherever they may be suffering for Your name's sake, and replenish them in faith, strength and courage by the grace of Your Son.

Hear us, O Lord, when we cry to You for the afflicted. We ask for all who are in any need or suffering. Grant them help in body and soul, and save them for Your mercy's sake. As we are but pilgrims in this world, guide and uphold us, and bring us all in due time to our heavenly home.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)**
Receive these petitions in the name of the Prince of Life, the One who has taught us to obey, even Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

PROPER SEVEN

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For You have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from —falling.*
That I many walk before God in the
| light of life.

When I | am afraid,*
I put my | trust in You.
In God, Whose word I praise, in God I
trust; I shall not | be afraid.*
What can flesh | do to me?

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?

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.

For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from —falling.*
That I many walk before God in the
| light of life.

(Antiphon, Psalm 56:13;
Psalm 56:3-4, 10-11)

O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal Love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

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, heavenly Father, by Your grace we greet another day. For the protection You granted us during the night, we give You thanks. For giving us the health and strength to come before You in the congregation of Your redeemed, we praise Your Holy name. Send us Your Holy Spirit to teach us to bear with patience our own and others' infirmities. Keep us diligent in prayer, and open our eyes to see Your answers. May Your Almighty power be the strength for our weakness, may the leaders of our nation serve only You and may Your Church be a light to the world. In the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

JESUS IS THE SUM TOTAL OF OUR LIFE, AND OUR EXPECTATION OF SALVATION. In Him we live and move and have our being. The acknowledgment of Christ before the people of the world is the result of being made one with Jesus in the water and Word of our baptism. That is kept alive in the Body and Blood we receive every time we come to the altar. God has set us free in the work and the person of Jesus. God has set us free to be the people who bear the very image of God. We set free to proclaim with our lips and with our lives the wonder, the splendor, the eternal delight of one who has a fearless faith gifted to us by God. We thank everyone who has been called out to worship on this day. We pray that your time spent in worship is of as much value to you, as it is to us. In worship we are made fearless by Jesus and we are allowed to boldly praise His name.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Fearless Faith

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 56:13;) Psalm 56:3-4, 10-11

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

The Collect proclaims our understanding that God will guide us through this life, nurturing us in His Word and showing us His Love which came in the cross of Jesus. We are able to put away our fears for God will always be with us going with us through all of our life.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Jeremiah 20:7-13

The Word of God is true and no illusion. Jeremiah acknowledged that the Word that came to him was more than the prophet could have invented. He tried not to speak it but it came out of him anyway. Jeremiah seems to have been disillusioned with God. He spoke and the people refused to hear, and worse they plotted his destruction. Through the promise of God (which we have in the Gospel) even the disillusionment of Jeremiah was turned into cheerful trust and commitment of self to God. We are worthy without fear, to be tested by God so that through us His goodness and grace will show through our works, to the world.

GRADUAL—Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b)

In Psalm 145, David, encourages us to praise God. We have chosen, with these verses, to praise Him for His greatness.

EPISTLE LESSON—Romans 6:12-23

We like sin more than we love Jesus. We like sin more than we appreciate grace. In Romans, Paul makes the case for grace and the wonder of God's call. He also makes a point that we are no longer under the law, but under grace. However, He wanted to ensure that we comprehend the parameters of being freed from the law. If we continue to sin after we have been forgiven, we show that we would rather be slaves to sin than a Son of God. Sin is evil, God is good. Give up your sin and love God. Paul was aware that he often wrote really difficult to comprehend theological statements. He generally followed these deep statements with a great memory verse to help us comprehend. In this case it is: "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)