

of God. Jesus goes even further with the relationship because He says that if someone receives one of the people in whom Jesus lives, by reason of their Baptism and faith, then that person also has received Christ. We put God first in our life, and the relationship becomes real in our life because it is the only relationship that will endure into eternity. We have lost our life in Christ. He is victorious in the war against sin, death and Satan. We have been granted His life. We have been granted the life that He earned, that of eternity with our Father in Heaven.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O Lord, heavenly Father, You are from everlasting to everlasting; God. You have been our dwelling place in all generations. We give thanks to You that from the beginning of the world You have shown forth Your loving-kindness every morning and Your faithfulness every night.

We acknowledge with humble gratitude the advantages that are ours in this land: freedom with responsibility, education with truth, individual worth with integrity, law with justice and friendship with honor. For the labor and sacrifice of all who have given of themselves for the preservation and maintenance of these virtues, we thank You.

For the beauties and endowments of our country: its bright valleys and majestic mountains, the riches of its soil, its cattle on a thousand hills, its fruitful plains and abundant pastures, its homes and its industries, its schools and its libraries, and for all the many useful arts, sciences and labors, we praise and thank You.

O Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ, be our ever present Refuge and Fortress. You have done all, and You have given all to us without any merit or worthiness on our part. Stretch forth the right hand of Your power and deliver our country from corruption and wickedness, that we may live in quietness and peace.

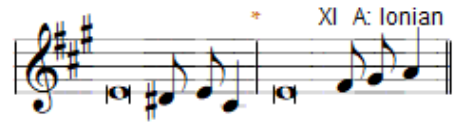
Our God of all mercy, we ask that You would uphold the weak and the afflicted. Let the health of Your grace flood into the spirit of those who are weak. Protect those who are in danger of body or soul. Defend the persecuted and oppressed; let Your Holy angels have charge over them that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Send the light of Your love into all our homes, that we may be nourished by the truth and grace of Jesus Christ and find joy in His presence.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (Time of silent prayer.) All this we ask in the work and the benefit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in Whose Holy name we pray.

© Amen.

PROPER EIGHT

Chant Tone



<p>Introit I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, for — ever;* with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all gener — ations.</p> <p>Blessèd are the people who know the festal shout;* who walk, O Lord, in the light of Your face, who exult in Your name all the day* and in Your righteousness are ex — alted.</p>	<p>For You are the glory of their strength;* by Your favor our horn is ex — alted. For our shield belongs to the Lord,* our king to the Holy One of Israel.</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>I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, for — ever;* with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all gener — ations.</p> <p><i>(Antiphon, Psalm 89:1; Psalm 89:15-18)</i></p>
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Collect of the Day

Almighty God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and know | ledge of God!*
How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscruta | ble His ways!
For from Him and through Him and to Him | are all things.*
To Him be glory forever. — Amen.

(Romans 11:33, 36)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: We proclaim Your steadfast Love, O Lord, Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. We give You thanks for calling us through our Baptism to be Your chosen ones. You have told us that if we are afraid to lose our life in Your service we will not know the real meaning of the Christian life. May the Holy Spirit grant us the spiritual insight to see that only in the willingness to lose our life for Your sake, will we find it. Through Your grace, we have not been afraid to risk our lives in the defense of Your kingdom. Remind us, by the continual visitation of Your Holy Spirit, to walk in newness of life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

YOUR CHRISTIANITY IS AN INDIVIDUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. Church on the other hand, is a lot like a baseball team. Team Church needs good fundamentals, a lot of practice and hard work, and the realization that (no matter how good any one individual member is) it is a team effort—the season is won or lost by the efforts of the entire team. We thank you for playing with our team today. Our coach is the best (who would have thought that a Jewish Carpenter had such knowledge of team work) and we have a good number of dedicated players. If you haven't already heard, our team is looking for new players. These players can come in any shape and size, all positions are open. If you know of anyone who would be interested in playing on our team with a Jewish carpenter for a coach, let Pastor know, he is in charge of player recruitment.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Faithfulness To God

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 89:1;) Psalm 89:15-18

Although the title states that this is a "miskel of Ethan," who was alive during the time of Solomon, that may only mean that it is set to chords of music he had previously written. The events in this Psalm accord better to the events spoken of in our Old Testament Lesson. Verse 1 is a general opening line of praise to God. Verses 15-18 form one section. In it the people of God are recognized for their faith, and the One on Whom they rest their faith is identified as the "Holy One of Israel," which is one of the doctrinal names for the Messiah, the Christ (Jesus.)

COLLECT

We pray that the Word of God would come among us and be in us.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Jeremiah 28:5-9

In 598 BC, King Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem a second time. The rulers were sent into exile. The people were expecting that God would save them out of their situation, not because they were faithful, not because they believed, not because they were willing to follow, but because they were "His People." The false prophet Hananiah was proclaiming peace. He was proclaiming what the leaders and people wanted to hear. The people hated Jeremiah because He was proclaiming the truth as it came to him from God. Misery was going to fall on the people because of their faithlessness. The people had destroyed their relationship with God. Jeremiah reminded everyone that the identification of a true prophet is found when the words prophesied come to pass, not when they are the words people want to hear.

GRADUAL—Romans 11:33, 36

In Romans 11, Paul lamented the fact that the Jews reject Jesus and therefore salvation. These two verses sing praise to God that even in the face of all the unbelief, we were chosen to believe.

EPISTLE LESSON—Romans 7:1-13

There is a conflict in our hearts. Our sin wants us dead, and God wants us alive. It was necessary for God to establish our life through the death of Jesus. For in Him we have died to sin, we are viewed as dead by the standards of the Law of God and therefore able to be made alive by the Holy Spirit to Holiness granted through the mercy of God.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 10:34-42

Our expectation of salvation is based on the fact that Jesus died for me, not just the fact that Jesus died for sinners. We are given perfect flesh, we are made over to look like Christ in the atonement. This is clearly in the eyes