

"He chose us." In the sweet singularity of grace, these words speak to us, as they did to Amos and to the 12 disciples, of God's eternal plan for us.

Introit



Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
blessed is the man who takes refuge  
in him.

The Lord has chosen Zion,  
he has desired it for his dwelling:  
"This is my resting place for ever  
and ever,"  
here I will sit enthroned, for I have  
desired it—  
I will bless her with abundant

provisions;  
her poor will I satisfy with food.  
I will clothe her priests with salvation,  
and her saints will ever sing for joy."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen

Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
blessed is the man who takes refuge  
in him.

(Antiphon, Ps. 34:8;  
Ps. 132:13-16)

Collect of the Day

O almighty and most merciful God, of your bountiful goodness keep us, we pray, from all things that may hurt us that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish whatever things you want done; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

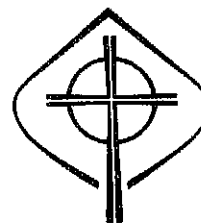
Gradual

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;  
his greatness no one can fathom.  
I will meditate on your wonderful works,  
and I will proclaim your great deeds. (Ps. 145:3, 5b, 6b)

For Daily Devotions

July 30: Ps. 56; 1 Chron. 21-25; 31; Deut. 32:1-4; 1 Chron. 26-29; August 1: Hab. 3:2-19; 2 Chron. 1-3; 2: Ps. 57; 2 Chron. 4-6; 3; Ps. 58; 2 Chron. 7-9; 4; Ps. 59; 2 Chron. 10-12; 5; Ps. 60; 2 Chron. 13-15.

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### Amos 7:10-15

Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: "Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words. For this is what Amos is saying:

" 'Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land.' "

Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there. Don't prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king's sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom."

Amos answered Amaziah, "I was neither a prophet nor a prophet's son, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. But the LORD took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' "

### Ephesians 1:3-14

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished

on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

### Mark 6:7-13

Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.

These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them."

They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

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