

ENTRANCE PRAYER: When we consider the perfection of Your laws, O Lord, we realize how far we have strayed from the path which You laid out for us. We too often love and trust other things and people more than You. For our transgressions we implore Your forgiveness. Send us Your Holy Spirit that He gives us power to overcome our sin and bless the witness of Your Church in the world, that the world may be led to know the goodness of Your Law and accept Your authority to rule and govern our lives. Only then will we see our confidence exists only in the Gospel and the authority of Jesus, in Whose name we pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WAS ASKED BY HIS FRIENDS WHAT HE HAD GIVEN UP FOR LENT. As a Lutheran he had never really worked with the idea of giving up something for Lent. His mother too, wondered what he should have answered. They decided that he should say that he had given up his sin for Lent. During Lent we take the time to see what has been done for us through the life, suffering, and death of Jesus. He Who is without sin, took on our humanity. Then He gave over His sinless life, to take on our suffering and death, our punishment for sin. The result is that we are made over into the perfect people who belong in Heaven. He suffered unjustly that we would be justified through His birth, life, suffering, and death.

THEME OF THE DAY:
God Always Wins

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 1:6;) Psalm 5:4-8

Psalm 1 was written by whomever collected up the Psalms (likely Ezra) as an introduction. It is paired with our other Propers as an exposition of good verses evil, life and death; we should follow the blessing and avoid the curse. This is our first ever use of Psalm 5. David wrote this Psalm at a time when the enemies of the nation were doing them great harm. The verses we have chosen to use are a contrast of the fact that God's grace and mercy always triumphs over sin, death and Satan.

COLLECT

We pray that those who have gone astray will return to the truth of God's Word. This prayer was added to our Propers in 2006 to more accurately reflect the theme of the three lessons.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Ezekiel 33:7-20

Historically, the book of Ezekiel was read during the season of Easter. We added verses 7-9 to our Pentecost 16 readings in 1982 and now we read more. Danger surrounds us because of sin. Our flesh, the world and Satan are constantly at work keeping us from the good and wonderful will of God. Ezekiel was called as one of God's servants to deliver the message of repentance to a disobedient people. There is within this message the obligation to tell others about their sin, there is also the obligation to listen to others as they tell us of our sin against them/against God.

GRADUAL—Hebrews 12:2

The author (I say Luke) encourage us to look to Jesus (the Living Water) Who teaches us patience and perseverance.

EPISTLE LESSON—1 Corinthians 10:1-13

From the history of Israel in the desert, Paul draws a clear lesson: The experience of Old Testament Israel serve as warnings for New Testament Corinth. Paul presented a list of the offenses and then repeated that these things happened as a warning and were written for our instruction, as we live our life in these last days.

VERSE—2 Peter 3:9b, c

God keeps His time. God fulfills His promises. If there is any delay in a response from God, it is specifically designed that the elect will receive from Him forgiveness for their repentance.

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 13:1-9

The verses of this text teach of the grace of God's kingdom, even as judgment is at hand. We often worry about being punished by God for