

He was and His role in our midst. He upset the leadership by not being the person they wanted. Blindness was common at the time of Christ. Jesus healed many blind persons. A common belief at the time was that all human suffering was somehow tied to an actual sin. They taught that the blind man must have done something horrible. The blind man did not know who had healed him. The healing of the man born blind is an illustration of the grace and judgment that accompanied Jesus. Through Him "darkness is made light." The blind man was not able to witness to the wonder of Jesus because he did not know Jesus. At some later point, Jesus introduced Himself. The man was not only given sight, he was given insight. First he saw the man, Jesus, and then he comprehend Eternal Life through Jesus the Messiah.

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑨ O God, we praise You for all Your mercies. We thank You that You have redeemed our life from destruction and crowned us with loving kindness; and that You have not dealt with us as our sins would deserve, nor rewarded us according to what we have done. Out of Your grace and mercy, You gave Your Only-Begotten Son to take on our sin and to suffer for our misdeeds so that we would be rewarded with everlasting life. Grant that we who gather here for worship, may repent of our evil, turn away from all our sinful thoughts and ways and find Your abundant pardon in the death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Cause Your Word to be preached in all lands, and in every tongue. Keep Your Church in union with Jesus Christ in the true faith. Raise up Pastors and grant them a full measure of Your Spirit as they proclaim salvation to the world. Bless our schools, that all teachers may both acknowledge and serve You, and that the students will find in You the treasures of life and truth. Give wisdom and counsel to all who in the government of this land have authority over us, so that we may worship and serve You without hindrance, and live in peace and righteousness.

Make us mindful of the needs of all people. As You give both the righteous and the ungodly their daily bread, make us mindful of Your sovereignty and allow us to receive Your benefits with thanksgiving. Make all that You give us a blessing that Your gifts would show forth Your Love and care. O Lord keep us in health that we may serve You in this life while we wait for the life to come.

To all who suffer sickness, pain, disease, affliction, or any adversity of body, mind or spirit, we ask, O Lord, that You would give them the strength that will enable them to bear their cross and the spirit of Jesus as He taught us to say, "Your will be done."

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

In the glorious name of Jesus and for the sake of His kingdom we pray.

© Amen.

### LENT FOUR

#### Chant Tone



#### Introit

My eyes are ever | toward the Lord,\*  
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

One thing have I asked of the Lord,  
that will I seek — after.\*

That I may dwell in the house of the  
Lord all the days of my life, to gaze  
upon the beauty of the Lord and to  
inquire in His — temple.

For He will hide me in his shelter in  
the day of — trouble;\*

He will conceal me under the cover of  
His tent; he will lift me high up | on  
a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up  
above my enemies all around me, and I  
will offer in His tent sacrifices with | shouts  
of joy;\*

I will sing and make melody | to the  
Lord.

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.

My eyes are ever | toward the Lord,\*  
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

(Antiphon: Psalm 25:15;  
Psalm 27:4-6)

#### Collect of the Day

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

#### Gradual

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] — Jesus,\*  
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,  
Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despis | ing the shame,\*  
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

(Hebrews 12:2)

#### Verse

With You is the foun | tain of life;\*  
in Your light do | we see light.

(Psalm 36:9)

**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** Lord God, heavenly Father, Light of our life, the guarantee of our salvation; grant us, we pray, the power of Your Holy Spirit, that we would trust in the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, rather than in our own attempted goodness. Help us look up at the cross of Christ and on it find Your Love poured out for us in the death of Your Son. Enable us to lift high the cross of Jesus, that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have eternal life. Help us lead the world out of darkness and into Your marvelous light. Accept the grateful melodies of our hearts, and listen to our songs of praise. All this in Jesus' name we pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**JESUS WAS IN THE WORLD AND THE WORLD WAS BEING RECONCILED TO GOD THROUGH HIM.** Have you ever misplaced something, for example the keys to your car? You search and search, but can't find them anywhere you looked. Sometimes it helps to try and remember where you were and what you did the last time you had them. Such insight and introspection only makes us realize how chaotic and disjointed is our life. We lack the insight to imagine God. We lack the intelligence to recognize God at work in our life. We exist in darkness. Even with Jesus standing before him, the man born blind did not know Jesus as the Christ. The man born blind speculated He was a prophet. It is only through the work of Jesus and in the work of the Holy Spirit that we are able to know and recognize God. The knowledge of Jesus Christ was Baptized into your heart. Though you were born spiritually blind, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit you came to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

#### **THEME OF THE DAY:**

Sight for the Blind

#### **INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Psalm 25:15;) Psalm 27:4-6

Both Psalms were written by David. Psalm 25 is a song of faith. Psalm 27 is thought to have been written immediately before he became king, as it mentions his last time in battle. The people said that the king shouldn't risk his life. David told us to wait for the Lord and be with Him in all things.

#### **COLLECT**

One of the main reasons for giving our service to God is because of the abundance of His mercy. He gives us everything we need, and we praise and thank Him for the wonder of His generosity.

#### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**—Isaiah 42:14-21

No one is able to take credit for the accomplishments of God. In Isaiah 42, the Redeemer spoke on His Own behalf. The suffering servant would do many things including giving sight to the blind. This seeing, however, would not bring about knowledge. "You have seen many things, but have paid no attention." The Servant of God would do His work without complaint or harsh word, He won't see or hear anything other than the Word of God. God's abundant Love for the world was the one constant that kept Jesus to His goal of redeeming the world.

#### **GRADUAL**—Hebrews 12:2

Hebrews 12 compares the greater wonder of Heaven to our place here on Earth. To, "fix our eyes on Jesus" He first opens our eyes.

#### **EPISTLE LESSON**—Ephesians 5:8-14

We are made children of light by the One who is Light of the world. The light of God's Word reveals forgiveness on the cross at Calvary where all the darkness of the world was concentrated as it pushed Christ into death for us all. That light revealed (on the cross) God's wrath against sin and the size of His Love for humanity. We are in desperate need of Jesus the Light of the world. Through His light we are made "the light in the Lord." Once we are light we expose the things of darkness for what they are, shameful deeds. Once we are light it would be a shame for us to do the works of darkness.

#### **VERSE**—Psalm 36:9

Psalm 36 was written by David and specifically compliments God for how good He is to His people.

#### **GOSPEL LESSON**—John 9:1-41

The light of Christ is given to us so that we may clearly see our path that always leads us to the cross of Christ. Jesus gave "sight" so we see Who