



**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** When we consider the perfection of Your Laws, O Lord, we realize how far we have strayed from the path which You have laid out for us. We too often loved and trusted other things and people more than You. For our transgressions we implore Your forgiveness. Send Your Holy Spirit that He may give us power to overcome our sin and that He may 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 assurance exists only in the Gospel, the authority of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**THE SEASON OF LENT IS THE SEASON OF SACK CLOTH AND ASHES.** Only for the Sundays of Lent, do we wash our hands and face and enter into the festival of worship, for as much guilt as we feel because of our sin, we know that Jesus walked out of the grave on that first Easter Sunday Morning and became Salvation of us. We have a tremendous power because of this knowledge. The woman at the well had made her life difficult. She didn't have friends. She did her errands at the worst possible times. She had sharp answers to Jesus' request for water, she snapped at Him for even speaking to her (being a woman and a Samaritan.) Jesus broke through her caustic exterior and spoke to her heart the Word of Life. Jesus explains that He was the God of her expectations. We welcome all who have been called out by God to come and worship His Son today.

**THEME OF THE DAY:**

Justification by Faith

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Psalm 84:5;) Psalm 84:1-4

Psalm 84 is attributed to the Sons of Korah. Although Korah himself revolted against Moses and fell to divine judgment, the Lord allowed his heirs to continue serving Him. They led liturgical worship, writing Psalms that were chanted or sung antiphonally (back and forth among two or more individuals or groups). This Psalm speaks of the pleasures and benefits of public worship, and ties to the woman at the well, who publicly proclaimed the appearance of the Immanuel.

**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 Bible lessons.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**—Exodus 17:1-7

This lesson would fit with the Gospel of Lent One (the temptation of Jesus.) The, "chosen" people were in the wilderness without water and they failed. They argued with Moses (who accuses them of "testing God"--Jesus mentioned it in the second temptation.) In our Gospel Lesson Jesus called Himself Living Water. Our life is in the hands of God. When we complain that life isn't fair we are tempting God to show us how unfair it can get. Consider how fair it was for Jesus to have died on the cross because of our sin.

**GRADUAL**—Hebrews 12:2

Hebrews chapter 12 compares the greater wonder of Heaven to the lesser wonder of our place here on Earth, and encourages us to look to Jesus for patience and perseverance.

**EPISTLE LESSON**—Romans 5:1-8

In Romans chapter 4 Paul set up the case for justification by faith, using Abraham as his example. In chapter 5, Paul leads us to understand that our personal justification is also by faith, the faithfulness of Jesus imputed to us as faith. "While we were still sinners Christ died for us." Paul was acquainted with suffering. His analysis of suffering as ultimately leading to the knowledge of salvation is rather interesting.

**VERSE**—John 4:23

This is an important statement taken from our Gospel Lesson.

**GOSPEL LESSON**—John 4:5-30, 39-42

The lessons for the Season of Lent follow Christ as He walked toward His cross. His interactions with those around Him show that He is fully human.