

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