



**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** Lord God, heavenly Father, Light of our life, the expectation of our salvation; grant us, we pray, the power of Your Holy Spirit, that we will 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. In this all we ask You to accept the grateful melodies of our hearts, and listen to our songs of praise. In Jesus name we pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON IS OFTEN KNOWN AS THE GOSPEL WITHIN THE GOSPEL.** It is so called because it clearly speaks of the work of God our Father over against the people of the world. Humanity rebelled against God, yet when we return, led by God and His overwhelming Love for us, we are received not as terrible sinners who deserve nothing but pain and punishment—or as the prodigal son expected, to be treated as a servant—we are instead received as a son and restored to our place of inheritance. We welcome all who have come out to worship this day. With a deep sense of awe we recognize that God receives our worship as perfect in His sight through the work and the person of His Son.

**THEME OF THE DAY:**

Rebellion and Repentance

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Psalm 51:1;) Psalm 51:2-6

There is nothing historic about our Propers today. The Introit and the Epistle Lesson are both new in our latest round of readings. The remainder were adding in our first three year cycle. The title of Psalm 51 says it all: "To the Choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him after he had gone in to Bathsheba." We use this Psalm to remind ourselves of the volume of our sin and the great distress it has caused in our relationship with God.

**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 12:1-6

The chosen people are called a rebellious son. Although God was angry with them, He did not turn away. When the chosen people repented, they always found God waiting for them. God was angry with them for their continual rebellion and unbelief, but it is His anger that will turn away. The result of their repentance was always joy and celebration

**GRADUAL**—Hebrews 12:2

Historically our Gradual changed every Sunday. In our first revision to the Propers, we decided to only change it with the Festival. We compare the greater wonder of Heaven to our place here on Earth. We can only, "fix our eyes on Jesus" if the Holy Spirit allows our eyes to focus on Him.

**EPISTLE LESSON**—2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Paul replied to those who opposed his message and created a false gospel. The predicament of humans is that we are in need of reconciliation with God. Our sin has alienated us from Him. It is up to God to be the power of reconciliation. God appeals to sinners to come to Him brought by Christ. He has provided the way by which we become a new creation through the power of the cross. Christ has power over nature. He even has power over our sinful nature. He can return us to the place of creation, He can as His work reconcile us to God.

**VERSE**—Luke 15:22a, 24a

The verse comes from the Gospel Lesson.

**GOSPEL LESSON**—Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

There appear to be two stories going on in the parable of the Prodigal Son. First the story of the dissolute younger son, and then the story of