

the same way that Nathan used a parable to explain to David the extent of his sin, Jesus used a parable to attempt to explain to the Pharisee, his need for Jesus. The Pharisee seems not to understand, even though he understands. Jesus honors the extent of the woman's repentance, the depth of her sorrow over her sin. (It is interesting to note that even though the Pharisee says, "He would know what kind of woman she is," her sin is not spelled out for us. The bottom line is that in all circumstances of sin and forgiveness, the repentance is recognized by God and given forgiveness. It is also interesting to note that the other guests question the authority of Jesus to forgive sins, but that is for another time.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O God, king eternal, You are our light and salvation. We, Your children, seek You now in prayer, and plead with You to rest Your hand of benediction on our soul.

Bless us, O Lord, with such faith in Your Son Jesus Christ that we believe in Him with all our heart. Trusting in His merits, give us the assurance of everlasting life. Bless us, from the fountain of Your Love with the water-of-life and the washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit.

Stretch Your arm over our land, that Your power and glory may be seen from shore to shore. Present Your Love, in the halls of government, in the busy workplace of commerce, and on the farm. Be the reason for study in the classroom, and enlighten the minds and hearts of people of whatever dignity or position in life. Let our people repent, that our land may know that You are Lord over all and that You work only through Yourself, having never given the responsibility of our life and work to another.

Be gracious to all our families, that our children may grow in wisdom and stature with You and their peers. To this end give Your Spirit, especially to those among us who are parents, that they may be endowed with Christian ideals and live in obedience to Your commands. Allow parents to teach their children the important lessons of life through knowledge of You.

Look on all who suffer sickness or sorrow, the infirmities of age or the weariness of toil, separation from loved ones or uncertainty in decision, misunderstanding or bitterness, or any other adversity. Grant Your peace to all for whom we pray, showing Yourself as their help in time of need. Give them wisdom and understanding, wholeness, expectation and courage.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (Time of silent prayer.) These things we bring to You in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior.

© Amen.

PROPER SIX

Chant Tone



Introit

To You, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.*
O my God, in | You I trust;
Let me not be | put to shame;*
Let not my enemies exult | over me.

Turn to me and be gra | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af — flicted.
The troubles of my heart | are enlarged;*
bring me out of my dis — tresses.
Consider my affliction and my
— trouble,*
and forgive | all my sins.

Oh guard my soul, and de | liver me!*
Let me not be put to shame, for I
take re | fuge in You.

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.

To You, O Lord, I lift | up my soul,*
O my God, in | You I trust;.
Let me not be | put to shame,*
Let not my enemies exult | over me.

(Antiphon, Psalm 25:1-2;
Psalm 25:16-18, 20)

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us Your gifts of faith, hope, and love that we may receive the forgiveness You have promised and love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

The word is near you, in your mouth and | in your heart,*
that is the word of faith that | we proclaim.
For with the heart one believes and is | justified,*
and with the mouth one confesses | and is saved.

(Romans 10:8b, 10)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Lord God, heavenly Father, we come before You with thanksgiving and praise. We praise You for our creation, preservation, and redemption. We thank You for raising Your Son Jesus Christ from the dead and for preparing a place eternal in Heaven for all who trust in Your Son as their Savior. For sending us Your Holy Spirit so that we are made acceptable through Jesus to call Him Christ and Lord, we give You thanks. We pray for our leaders in both state and church, make them of one mind with You. Be with the sick, the lonely, the depressed. We ask these favors, O Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

"TWO MEN OWED A DEBT THEY COULD NOT PAY..." Simon, the Pharisee, had invited Jesus to come and eat with him. Simon wanted to show that he was important. Jesus stayed on that main point as He talked with Simon. We who understand the great load of sin we carry, will find ourselves the most grateful for the freedom provided in us through the work and the person of Jesus. Our debt has been paid, our eternity in His presence is assured. We thank everyone who has been called out by God to come and worship in His house this day. In word and song we will praise God our wonderful Father Who sent His Son into the world to achieve for us freedom from sin, death and Satan.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Repentance and Forgiveness

INTROIT—(Antiphon, Psalm 25:1-2;) Psalm 25:16-18, 20
Psalm 25 was David's profession of dependence on God. David wanted to be personally moved to God, to be delivered from troubles, be preserved from enemies, and to receive salvation within the church of God.

COLLECT

This is a huge prayer in a very small package. We ask God to increase the three components of our life, that in Scripture, are spoken of as the spiritual dimension of our life. With that increase we ask to obtain what God has promised and then with that increase we ask that we are able to fulfill the Law of God. The Law as it comes true in our life from the mouth of Jesus is to: "Love the Lord with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself."

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—2 Samuel 11:26—12:10, 13-14

This is an account of violence, betrayal and lust that makes any work of fiction pale in comparison. David had taken everything given him by God, and perverted it to power which he used to kill the husband of the object of his lust. For this David deserved nothing but utter contempt from God. Instead, God sent Nathan to present David with a parable. This allowed David to recognize his sin and by repenting, seek forgiveness. Sadly, the child born to Bathsheba and David suffered and died for the sin of David. The humanity of David was overwhelming. This great king (who was a Christ like figure,) engaged in sin. God goes to great lengths to keep us with Him through repentance and forgiveness.

GRADUAL—Romans 10:8b, 10

The Holy Spirit put the Word in our heart and head and makes it possible for us to proclaim our faith.

EPISTLE LESSON—Galatians 2:15-21, 3:10-14

This is the last of the autobiographical sections in the book of Galatians; Paul's confrontation with Peter. Paul was arguing against the circumcision party, (people who taught that to be a Christian it was first necessary to be a Jew and fulfill the whole law.) Even after our conversion we are prone to fall back to former positions of sin. There is repentance and forgiveness from God and with each other. In the second half of the text Paul expounds on the doctrine of justification by faith in Jesus. "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 7:36—8:3

Two people were in need of forgiveness from Jesus. Only one of them recognized her need and through repentance was granted forgiveness. In