



Living in the Spirit
◆ **3rd Sunday of Lent**
The Lord Is Kind And Merciful

Call to Prayer and Sharing

❖ *Invitation to Prayer - Leader*

Let us begin,
Now, here in this place
With a moment of silence, to reflect,
to focus, to be attentive to ourselves,
to one another, and to the presence of Christ.

May the Lord come and increase our faith. (*reflective pause*)

❖ *Opening Song - If time allows, sing a familiar hymn or song.*

❖ *Then: "In the name of the Father and of the Son . . ."*

The Word of God

❖ *Leader:* Let us welcome God's Word into our hearts.

- *Sing:* May the Word be a lamp for our feet and a light to guide our path!

From Luke 13:1-9 (Jesus tells us to repent)

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans
whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices.
Jesus said to them in reply,
"Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way
they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means!
But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!
Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—
do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem?
By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!"

And he told them this parable:

"There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard,
and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener,
'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree
but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?'
He said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also,
and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future.
If not you can cut it down.'"

The Word of the Lord...

❖ *At the conclusion of the reading, briefly pause for quiet reflection.*

Faith Sharing/Question of the Week (*consider sharing on either question*)

- ❖ **Adult:** What can you do this week to really spend time alone with God, listening with your heart?
- ❖ **Mixed Ages:** What is one way that God helped you this past week?

For further reflection and discussion

- ❖ How does this influence and affect what we are doing here at this gathering?

Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow a few minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of 3 or 4 for faith sharing.

- ❖ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*

Litany of Faith

Leader: Christ Jesus, you call us to repent, to return to you.
Guide us to receive your mercy.

All: The Lord is kind and merciful. Oh bless the Lord, my soul.

Leader: Christ Jesus, you call us to repent, to return to you.
Challenge us to be your compassion to the world.

All: The Lord is kind and merciful. Oh bless the Lord, my soul.

Leader: Christ Jesus, you call us to repent, to return to you.
Empower us to witness to your vision, your kingdom.

All: The Lord is kind and merciful. Oh bless the Lord, my soul.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together:

All: Gracious God,
we know that you are with us here,
and we have taken your Word into our hearts.
You call us all to conversion,
we who are here in this place,
and we who are now ready to welcome you into our lives.
We are ready,
we are willing,
and we are yours.
So we surrender to you
our aches and longings into one as we pray:
Our Father...

Continue with the Meeting

Final Blessing

Leader: Now let us bless one another:

All: May God bless and keep us, may God smile upon us.
May God show us kindness, fill us with peace.
And may God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
may we always love and serve,
filled with God's Peace. Amen.

Leader: *Conclude the meeting or sing a closing song.*