



Living in the Spirit
◆ 4th Sunday in Lent
We Once Were Lost

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 to the melody of "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow".*

Open our minds to, know you Lord;
Open our hearts to, hear your voice;
Open our hearts now, to your Word;
Come to us now, O Lord, our God.

From Luke 15 – (The son who was lost came back home)

[Jesus Said] "A man had two sons . . . the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, . . . he found himself in dire need. . . . Coming to his senses . . . he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father . . . ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, . . . 'let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' . . . Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. . . . He became angry, . . . He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. . . .' [His father] said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"

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:** How have you or your family welcomed a family member who has been distant or absent from you?

❖ **Mixed Ages:** Who is the one person in your family you most need say, "I'm sorry" to?

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, we have traveled far from you,
but you have called us home.

All: We once were lost, but now are found.

Leader: Christ Jesus, we have abandoned your love and care,
but you have called us home.

All: We once were lost, but now are found.

Leader: Christ Jesus, we have lost our way, and forgotten your promise,
but you have called us home.

All: We once were lost, but now are found.

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.*