

Closing Hymn 439

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev’rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
oh, what needless pain we bear—
all because we do not carry
ev’rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness—
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he’ll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.



March 24, 2021
Mid-week Lenten service

THE PARABLES OF LENT **RECEIVE FORGIVENESS**

THE PARABLE *of the* PRODIGAL SON
Lent 5 — Order of Service

Opening Hymn 487

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” vv. 1-3

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow his example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do our Father’s bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where he is there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy:
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share your woe; Help me there your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death he conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.

Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;
Then by grace we all may win Untold fruits of his creation.
Jesus, unto you I die, There to live with you on high.

Opening Litany

- P In this holy season the Son of God humbles himself so that we receive mercy.
- C Humble me once again, O God, that my life would be pleasing and acceptable to you.**
- P In this holy season the Son of God rushes out to greet us in the midst of our sin, like a father welcoming a lost child.

C Remind me, O God, of the power of your forgiveness that covers over all my sins and gives me a new beginning.

P In this holy season the Son of God enters into his Passion and death so that we are exalted.

C Grant me your grace, O God, that my faith in Jesus would be pleasing and acceptable to you.

P Let us pray,

C O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Too often in our selfishness we squander the gifts God gives to us. Let us confess the sins of our hearts and lives to our Lord who hears and forgives:

C Most merciful God, we confess that our very nature is sinful. We do not love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. We do not love our neighbors as ourselves. When we use and abuse the good gifts you give to us, we display our evil and conceit. We don't even deserve to be called your servants, let alone your children. By our selfishness we have sinned against you and against others in thought, word and deed. Forgive us, most holy God.

P The Lord Jesus took on the punishment of all of us prodigals. His sacrifice means that our Heavenly Father comes to greet us with grace that is unearned and undeserved. He celebrates our new life with his forgiving love. Because Jesus took on the punishment that we rightly deserved, all of our sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Hymn of Response 102

"On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

On my heart imprint your image, Blessed Jesus, king of grace,
That life's troubles nor its pleasures Ever may your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, All my glory and salvation!

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 51:1-12

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 5:15-21

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:11-32

Sermon

Hymn of the Day 309

"Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;
From selfish passions set me free And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me your loving servant be And taste your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me, Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity Point out your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me, That, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see And share your joy at last.

Prayers of the Church

Each petition ends with the following response:

P O forgiving Father,

C surround us with your embrace.

Our Lord's Prayer

Benediction