

Daily Prayer

Fourth Sunday of Lent,
The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



Readings: Joshua 5: 9–12; Psalm 33: 2–7, 2; Corinthians 5: 17–21; Luke 15: 1–3, 11–32.

Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope

Source: [Jubilee Resource Pack for Parishes](#)

Jubilee years are a time of newness. They have been celebrated throughout the history of the Church, but their roots go back to the Old Testament, when the Israelites were commanded to celebrate a jubilee every 50 years...

St Mary of the Cross Mackillop used to say: 'We are but travellers here.' For the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on what it means to be pilgrims of hope: a people who are not only travellers here but walking in joyful anticipation of 'the heavenly goal to which we have been called' (SNC §25).

Pope Francis believes that, in today's world, hope suffers; that too many people have been robbed by cynicism and despair. During Jubilee 2025, he wants everyone to have 'an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ' (SNC §6). Only this hope—born from knowing that nothing can separate us from God's love (Rom 8:35-39)—can breathe life back into weary souls.

This hope is not optimism. It is not a forced positivity in the face of hardship and evil. It is a grace from God, a trust in the Lord's promises: that he is good, that he is merciful, and that we are journeying towards the one who says, 'Look, I am making everything new' (Rev 21:5).



For this reason, the most striking part of the logo for this jubilee is the cross: bending towards humanity and forming an anchor, it depicts the cross as something to cling to, especially in rough seas. It is a contemporary 'riff' on an old biblical image. The epistle to the Hebrews describes the hope we have in Christ as 'an anchor of the soul, as sure as it is firm' (6:19).

The cross is not a dead symbol from the past. It is a living sign of God's unfathomable love, and one that carries us together in pilgrimage towards heaven.

Preparations for Daily Prayer

The following daily prayers can be used in their entirety or adapted to meet the needs of the audience. The prayers draw on the Sunday readings, so you may use any of the prayers on any day, although special focus will be given to Feast days, Solemnities, and days of special cultural significance. Feel free to adapt the prayers for special occasions or specific intentions of your own class and school.

The prayers will introduce students to traditional prayer and liturgical practices and responses, as well as a variety of Christian spiritual experiences. Take the opportunity to create a Sacred Space for prayer as you might do in creating a protected garden. This may include a prayer cloth or placemat, a bible, a crucifix, a candle, and flowers. Additional resources (apps, websites, music, videos) will be suggested for those wanting to enrich the prayers or to understand the readings at a deeper level.

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The Year of Luke

The Gospel readings for this Year C are taken from the Gospel of Luke and the Church has now entered the Season of Lent.

The Sunday Gospel for this week is Jesus is tempted in the desert.

Daily Prayer will invite those gathered to participate in prayer rituals and respond respectfully in a prayerful context. This week is about setting up for success in a way that those gathered will become comfortable with the structure, the responses, the gestures, the prayers and the symbols. Daily Prayer will be a time when all feel welcomed and valued.

Overview of the Week

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers, and Forms of Prayer
Monday – Violet	<i>Parable of the prodigal son.</i>	Gospel and reflection
Tuesday – Violet	<i>Your brother here was dead and has come to life.</i>	Gospel and Ignatian Lectio
Wednesday – Violet	<i>“He was lost and is found.”</i>	Gospel, reflection with art
Thursday – Violet	<i>Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.</i>	Responsorial Psalm and Project Compassion prayer and reflection from Caritas Australia
Friday – Violet	<i>I promise to turn my life around.</i>	Gospel and Prayers of the Faithful

Note that scripture quotations are from the Lectionary (*Jerusalem Bible*) or NRSV.

Suggested Teacher Background for the Readings

- LiturgyHelp: [Commentaries and Homilies & Reflections](#)
- Loyola Press: [Sunday Connection](#)
- The Emmaus Series: [Sunday Reflections](#).



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Readings: Joshua 5: 9–12; Psalm 33: 2–7, 2; Corinthians 5: 17–21; Luke 15: 1–3, 11–32.

Monday

Today's Daily Prayer – Parable of the Prodigal Son

Preparation: Choose a reader and someone to light the candle.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: We gather together in God's presence to pray, let us make the sign of the cross.
(Pause)

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Background to the Gospel

Leader:

In Jewish society, there were laws regarding how inheritances were typically divided. The oldest brother received a double share, while the other brothers received a single share. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, there were two brothers, so the older brother would get two-thirds of the estate and the younger brother would get one third. Also in Jewish society, parents were highly revered and respected, so by asking for his inheritance before his father had died, the younger son is saying, 'Father, it is as if you are dead to me already. Give me my inheritance right now.'

Listen

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Leader: *Let us prepare to listen attentively to the sacred words of Scripture.*

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. (pause)

Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later, the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am, dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will



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say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe – the best one – and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead, and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.



Reflect

Leader:

Jesus' parables, although seemingly straightforward, often have a twist or a surprise at the end. They are meant to make us think. What is it about this parable that surprises you or makes you think? Share your response with others present.

(Take a couple of minutes to reflect).

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Jesus' parables, although seemingly straightforward, often have a twist or a surprise at the end. They are meant to make us think. What is it about this parable that surprises you or makes you think?

Share your response with others present.

Go Forth

Leader:

Gracious God, you are like a loving father to us. Your love is constant, and you are always with us, even when we turn our faces from you. Help us to turn to you in times of need and in times of sorrow, confident that you will always listen.

Pope Francis tells us that "with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again."
[Source](#)

Let us go forth from here sharing the light of hope and message of God's love in all that we say and do.

All: **God, guide us on our journey as 'Pilgrims of Hope'.**

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



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Readings: Joshua 5: 9–12, Psalm 33: 2–7, 2 Corinthians 5: 17–21, Luke 15: 1–3, 11–32.

Tuesday

Today's Daily Prayer - Parable of the Prodigal Son.

Preparation: Choose a reader and someone to light the candle.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell, or a chime to begin.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Light candle and pause.

Listen

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke

Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later, the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So, he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am, dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So, he set off and went to his father.

'But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven

and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe – the best one – and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.



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Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."



(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Respond

Ignatian Lectio

Leader:

Choose one of the characters in the parable. What would we ask of or say to that character if we were given the chance to speak with him alone?

(Pause for some reflection time.)

Share your response with others present.

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Go Forth

Leader:

Enlighten our minds, O Lord, so that we may see what needs to be done to build your kingdom here on earth.

Give us the strength to keep our minds and hearts focused on you, so that we may not be distracted from your path.

Pope Francis tells us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.”
[Source](#)

Let us go forth from here sharing the light of hope and message of God’s love in all that we say and do.

All: God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Wednesday

Today's Daily Prayer - Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

Preparation: Choose a reader and someone to light a candle. Print copies of the Artwork, or project it on a screen.

We Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us to focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Light candle and pause.

Listen

Leader: Today we focus on the Gospel.

If possible, read from a lectionary or Bible. When proclaiming the word of God, read slowly and clearly. The text should be treated with reverence and respect.

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So, he divided his property between them. A few days later, the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So, he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am, dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So, he set off and went to his father. 'But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe – the best one – and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals



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on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Leader: Spend a couple of minutes reflecting on this painting of the Prodigal Son.



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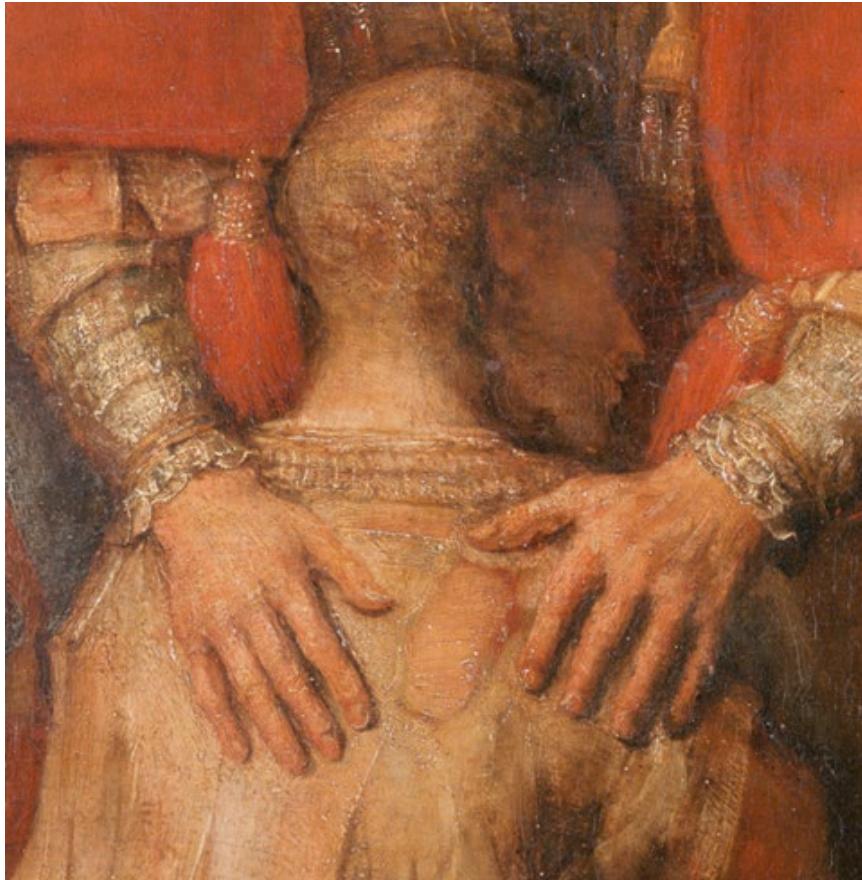


Figure 1: *The Return of the Prodigal Son*(Detail) by Rembrandt [Public domain],
via [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org)

Go Forth

Leader:

Loving God, your rich and abundant love is always there for us if we but look.
Help us to open our minds and hearts so that your love may flow through us like a river.
May this love help us to show love and compassion to all we meet.
Pope Francis tells us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.”
[Source](#)

Let us go forth from here sharing the light of hope and message of God’s love in all that we say and do.

All: **God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.**

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

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Readings: Joshua 5: 9–12; Psalm 33: 2–7, 2; Corinthians 5: 17–21; Luke 15: 1–3, 11–32

Thursday

Today's Daily Prayer – Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle, provide copies of the [Project Compassion Prayer](#) from [Caritas Australia](#).

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us to focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell, or a chime to begin.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Light candle and pause.

Leader: As we light this candle let us listen with our hearts to what God asks of us.

Listen

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Leader:

Today we will focus on the Responsorial Psalm which is part of a longer poem of thanksgiving. It is always good to take time to recognise the goodness and beauty in our lives and be thankful for this. As we pray this ancient prayer together bring to mind all the things that you are grateful for today

Reader: (R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. (ALL Repeat.)

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,

his praise always on my lips;

in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.

The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)



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2. Glorify the Lord with me.

Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. (R.)

3. Look towards him and be radiant;

let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. (R.)

(Pause)

Respond

Not everyone is as fortunate as we are, and Lent is a time of the year that we come together through Project Compassion and as individuals and communities we can support others that need our help.

And when we unite with each other – and with people living in poverty – we can create lasting change.

Let's all **Unite Against Poverty!** There is no time like 2025!

For over 60 years, [Caritas Australia](#) has worked hand in hand with people in Australia and overseas to break the cycle of poverty.

[Project Compassion 2025](#) brings us three stories of resilience and strength from three different countries around the world.

Go Forth

Leader: Loving God, we are reminded of your constant presence in our lives. Help us to be always ready to reach out to you in times of trouble and rejoice with you when times are good. May we never lose sight of you.

Let us pray together the [Project Compassion prayer](#)

Pope Francis tells us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.” [Source](#)

Let us go forth from here sharing the light of hope and message of the love Jesus shares with the Father in all that we do.

All: **God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.**

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



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Readings: Joshua 5: 9–12; Psalm 33: 2–7; 2; Corinthians 5: 17–21; Luke 15: 1–3, 11–32.

Friday

Today's Daily Prayer – I promise to turn my life around.

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross. (Pause)

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Light candle and pause.

Listen

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later, the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am, dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father.

'But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe – the best one – and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I



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have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." (Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Leader:

Like the younger son, at times, we choose to turn away from God. This Lent, let us make a promise turn our lives around and to live faithfully the gospel message. (*Everyone stands*)

All: I promise to turn my life around.

(Everyone turns 90 degrees to their left. The leader says the following words a phrase at a time, and everyone repeats them.)

Leader: I promise to be a more generous person – in my thoughts of others, in my words and deeds and with my possessions.

(Everyone turns 90 degrees to their left. The leader says the following words a phrase at a time, and everyone repeats them.)

Leader: I promise to be a more loving person – by looking to the needs of others first, by being more accepting of others' differences, and by being generous and compassionate.

(Everyone turns 90 degrees to their left. The leader says the following words a phrase at a time and everyone repeats them.)

Leader: I promise to be a more peaceful person – by listening to others first, by being respectful of others' opinions and ideas, and by finding just and fair solutions to problems.

(Everyone turns 90 degrees to their left. The leader says the following words a phrase at a time and everyone repeats them.)

Leader: I promise to be a more forgiving person – by understanding the other's point of view, by being the first to admit I am wrong, and by forgiving others when they hurt me in word or deed.

(Pause)

All: I promise to turn my life around. Amen.



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Go Forth

All: Loving God, help us to remember your promise to be with us always, to guide us in our lives and bring us closer to you. In this special time of Lent, strengthen us in times of trial, and help us to trust in you with all our hearts, so that we may continually rejoice in your blessings. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, who is your promise of new life for us.

(Pause)



Leader: May God's peace be with us.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: May God's love cover us.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: May God's mercy fill us.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: May God's generosity bless us with good things,

All: **Amen.**

Leader: and keep us safe in his care.

"The Prodigal Son Returns: Soichi Watanabe."

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Pope Francis tells us that "with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again." [Source](#)

Let us go forth from here sharing the light of hope and message of God's love in all that we say and do.

All: **God, guide us on our journey as 'Pilgrims of Hope'.**

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

