

Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in September, 2019

Introduction

Leader Mercy belongs to God. We enjoy God's mercy daily. When we offer mercy to others we share in the joy of God.

Opening Prayer

All Merciful God, we give thanks for your gift of mercy. As disciples of Jesus, we are sent forth to extend that same mercy to others. Help us to become a people of joy as we extend mercy without exceptions.

Word of God Luke 15:1-7

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke *The reading is on the reverse side.*
(Pause for silent reflection)

Optional Discuss these questions in two's or three's.

1. What images come to mind with these words of Jesus: "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost."
2. Does God withhold forgiveness and mercy from anyone? What does God expect of us with regard to forgiveness, mercy and joy?

Response

Side 1 "What man among you...would not go after the lost one until he finds it?"

Side 2 We renew our prayer: Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Side 1 "Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep."

Side 2 Help us to foster the gift of joy in forgiving generously.

Side 1 "I tell you...there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than in ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance."

Side 2 As sinners, Lord, we thank you for the mercy you offer us every day.

Petitions Individuals add intentions to remember here.

Closing Prayer

All Merciful God, thank you for the gift of forgiveness. Fill us with the joy of repentance and a share in the joy of returning "lost sheep". May we never consider ourselves "in no need of repentance." We pray for truth, goodness and joy in Jesus' name. Amen.

Luke 15:1-7

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus,
but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying,
“This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So to them he addressed this parable.

“What man among you having a hundred sheep
and losing one of them
would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert
and go after the lost one until he finds it?

And when he does find it,
he sets it on his shoulders with great joy
and, upon his arrival home,
he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them,
‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’

I tell you, in just the same way
there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents
than over ninety-nine righteous people
who have no need of repentance.”