

# Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in March, 2022

## Introduction

Leader The focus of the story of “The Prodigal Son” is not on the sins of the son, but on the extravagant forgiveness of the father. God extends that same forgiveness to each person—no exceptions.

## Opening Prayer

All Forgiving God, fill us with gratitude for the many times you forgive us. Help us to promote such forgiveness for the greatest of sinners by how we forgive—readily, with no exceptions. We ask this through Jesus, our teacher and Lord. Amen.

## Word of God Luke 15:1-3; 11-32

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke (Pause for silent reflection)

*Optional* Discuss these questions in two’s or three’s. *The reading is on the reverse side.*

1. What are some personal benefits of accepting forgiveness and forgiving others?
2. In the parable of “The Prodigal Son,” how is the father’s love particularly extravagant?

## Response (Taken from Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)

Side 1 “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.”

Side 2 May we readily admit our need for forgiveness and promote forgiveness in our home, work and world settings.

Side 1 “While he was a long way off, his father caught sight of him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.”

Side 2 May the spirit of compassion flourish in our homes and communities.

Side 1 “The father said, ‘Let us celebrate with a feast because this son of mine was dead and has come to life again.’ ”

Side 2 Increase our joy in forgiving, being forgiven, and promoting that spirit throughout society.

**Petitions** Individuals add intentions to remember here.

## Closing Prayer

All Lord Jesus, compassion and forgiveness come from you. Renew in us your extravagant forgiveness. Help us to spread your compassion and goodness everywhere. We pray in your name. Amen.

*A Reading from the Gospel of Luke* (shortened)

Jesus addressed this parable:

“A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father,  
‘Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.’  
So the father divided the property between them.

After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings  
and set off to a distant country  
where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation.

Coming to his senses he thought,  
‘How many of my father’s hired workers  
have more than enough food to eat,  
but here am I, dying from hunger.  
I shall get up and go to my father.’

So he got up and went back to his father.  
While he was still a long way off,  
his father caught sight of him,  
and was filled with compassion.  
He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.

His son said to him,  
‘Father, I have sinned against heave and against you.  
I no longer deserve to be called your son;  
treat me as you would one of your hired workers.’

His father ordered his servants,  
‘Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him,  
put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet...  
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.’ ”