

A Prayer for Forgiveness

Gathering Prayer

Leader: God our Father, we gather today in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us that you are a loving and forgiving Father. As we listen to the Gospel reading today, may it penetrate our hearts and enlighten our minds so that we may not only recognize our failings but also be encouraged to ask for forgiveness. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ and in the loving power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Luke. (*Read Luke 15:1–7.*)

Breaking Open the Word

All will take a few moments to think about the reading. The leader may take this opportunity to make a few comments and then ask for sharing from others on the meaning or impact of the reading. Each comment should be accepted quietly and thoughtfully. This is not the time for academic discussion.

Response of the Assembly

Reader: Our response to the following statements is: The Lord is my shepherd.

All: The Lord is my shepherd.

Reader: Sometimes I am like a lost sheep. I do not know which way to turn.

All: The Lord is my shepherd.

Reader: Sometimes I get caught in situations I need to get out of.

All: The Lord is my shepherd.

Reader: I take time to clear my head and heart. I ask God for help.

All: The Lord is my shepherd.

Reader: When I take the path to freedom, the Lord rejoices over me!

All: The Lord is my shepherd.

Closing Prayer

Leader: Jesus, Good Shepherd, you know us better than we know ourselves. You call us by name. You look for us when we are lost. You rejoice when we are sorry and repent. You are ready at any time to meet us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Penance, and in the Eucharist, your own Body and Blood given to us. You promised to be with us always. Cast out our fears, and assure us of your love and forgiveness when we have done wrong. Show us the path of life, and fill us with your saving love. We ask in your name, Lord Jesus.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us close our prayer with a sign of peace and a song of joy.

(All exchange a sign of peace and listen to or sing an appropriate song of God's forgiveness and love.)

