

WORDS TO RECALL

During this fourth week of Lent as you journey with Jesus, you could take time to recall other words from the Psalm of this week.

I will bless the Lord at all times

In the Lord my soul will boast

Glorify the Lord with me

I sought the Lord, he answered me

Look towards him



LIVING WORD

WEEK 4: Returning Home



READ

From the Gospel of Luke 15: 1 – 3, 11 – 32

Then Jesus said, "A man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Give me my share of the property.' So the father divided the property between his two sons. Then the younger son gathered up all that was his and left. He travelled far away to another country. There he wasted his money in foolish living. He spent everything that he had. Soon after that, the land became very dry, and there was no rain. There was not enough food to eat anywhere in the country. The son was hungry and needed money. So he got a job with one of the farmers there. The man sent the son into the fields to feed pigs. The son was so hungry that he was willing to eat the food the pigs were eating. But no one gave him anything. The son realized that he had been very foolish. He thought, 'All of my father's servants have plenty of food. But I am here, almost dying with hunger. I will leave and return to my father. I'll say to him: Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am not good enough to be called your son. But let me be like one of your servants.' So the son left and went to his father.

"While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. He felt sorry for his son. So the father ran to him, and hugged and kissed him. The son said, 'Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am not good enough to be called your son.'

But the father said to his servants, 'Hurry! Bring the best clothes and put them on him. Also, put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get our fat calf and kill it. Then we can have a feast and celebrate! My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!' So they began to celebrate.

"The older son was in the field. As he came closer to the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. So he called to one of the servants and asked, 'What does all this mean?' The servant said, 'Your brother has come back. Your father killed the fat calf to eat because your brother came home safely!' The older son was angry and would not go in to the feast. So his father went out and begged him to come in. The son said to his father, 'I have served you like a slave for many years! I have always obeyed your commands. But you never even killed a young goat for me to have a feast with my friends. But your other son has wasted all your money on prostitutes. Then he comes home, and you kill the fat calf for him!' The father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me. All that I have is yours. We had to celebrate and be happy because your brother was dead, but now he is alive. He was lost, but now he is found.'"

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

REFLECT

- What words or phrases strike you?
- Recall a time when you felt lost. How did it feel? Who or what helped you to find yourself again?
- When have you ever had an experience of coming home and rejoicing. What was that like?

RESPOND

As we continue our Lent journey with Jesus, we pray for people in our world who feel lost and alone.

Lord show us your loving kindness

For all our family and friends that they will never feel abandoned or lost Lord show us your loving kindness

For ourselves that we will always turn to the Lord for help when we are in trouble Lord show us your loving kindness

For the courage to own up when we have harmed our relationship with others Lord show us your loving kindness

For the Church, God's people, that we may provide a safe haven for those who are rejected in our world

Lord show us your loving kindness

REST

Now take time to rest with a phrase, repeating it in your heart or out loud. Choose one you are most drawn to:

- He felt sorry for his son
- The father ran to him
- You are always with me
- He was lost, but now he is found

