

## As We Gather

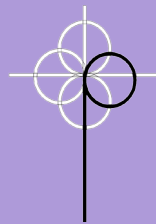
The prodigal son in Jesus' parable is surprised by the undeserved welcome and complete forgiveness of his father's open arms, offered on his return (though not shared by his brother).



Through Isaiah the Lord promises joy and salvation even as His judgment on Jerusalem is about to unfold and the inhabitants will find themselves far from home. For us, who have

been given faith to trust in Christ, Paul writes that "the old has passed away; behold, the new has come!"

Like the prodigal, we were lost, but we have been found. For Jesus' sake, here in the midst of Lent we can rejoice in the grace and mercy of the open arms of our loving Father in heaven. ✝



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Missionaries: each member in daily life

## Pilgrim Lutheran Church The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010



But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

Luke 15:20