

THE LESSONS APPOINTED FOR USE ON SATURDAY IN THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT

Micah 7:14–15, 18–20

Luke 15:11–32

Psalm 103:1–4, [5–8], 9–12

Preface of Lent

THE COLLECT

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

OLD TESTAMENT: MICAH 7:14–15, 18–20

Shepherd your people with your staff,
the flock that belongs to you,

which lives alone in a forest
in the midst of a garden land;

let them feed in Bashan and Gilead
as in the days of old.

As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt,
show us marvellous things.

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity
and passing over the transgression
of the remnant of your possession?

He does not retain his anger for ever,
because he delights in showing clemency.

He will again have compassion upon us;
he will tread our iniquities under foot.

You will cast all our sins
into the depths of the sea.

You will show faithfulness to Jacob
and unswerving loyalty to Abraham,
as you have sworn to our ancestors
from the days of old.

PSALM 103: 1–4, *[5–8]*, 9–12

1. Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
2. Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.
3. He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
4. He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

- [5. *He satisfies you with good things, **
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
6. *The Lord executes righteousness **
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
7. *He made his ways known to Moses **
and his works to the children of Israel.
8. *The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, **
slow to anger and of great kindness.]
9. He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
10. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
11. For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
12. As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 15:11–32

Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and

hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for

him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”