

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 30, 2025

## Scripture Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*In casual golf, you get one second chance per nine holes.  
It's called a mulligan. In life, it's called the grace of God.*

One of the most touching stories in the Bible is the parable of the Prodigal Son. The tale Jesus tells is a profound illustration of God's grace and the power of second chances. It speaks to all of us who have ever strayed, stumbled or found ourselves in need of redemption.

The story begins with a young man who asks his father for his share of the inheritance, which he promptly squanders in a distant land. When a severe famine arises, he finds himself destitute, feeding pigs and longing for the food they eat. In his desperation, he comes to his senses and decides to return to his father, hoping to be accepted as a servant.

This decision to return is the first step toward a second chance. The son recognizes his failure, humbles himself and seeks his father's forgiveness. It is a moment of repentance, an essential element in receiving a second chance.

When the errant child returns, his father sees him from a distance, runs to him, embraces him and throws a feast to celebrate his return. The father doesn't condemn him, but instead offers overwhelming grace and love. His child, who was lost, has been found.

Isn't this typical of God's love and mercy for us? No matter how far we've strayed or how badly we've messed up, God is always ready to welcome us back with open arms. God's grace is greater than our sins, and God's mercy endures forever.

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.*

—"Amazing Grace," by John Newton

May the grace of God lead us all to embrace the power of second chances, both in our own lives and in the lives of others.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: O God, I come before you with a heart full of gratitude. Thank you for your boundless mercy and grace that offers me a second chance, even when I fall short. Your love renews me, and your forgiveness restores me. May I never take your mercy for granted, and may I extend the same grace to others. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.*

## Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Deuteronomy 1-3
- Monday:** Deuteronomy 4-6
- Tuesday:** Deuteronomy 7-9
- Wednesday:** Deuteronomy 10-12
- Thursday:** Deuteronomy 13-16
- Friday:** Deuteronomy 17-19
- Saturday:** Deuteronomy 20-22

## VERSE TO REMEMBER

*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.* —Deuteronomy 6:5-6

## Proverbs for Fun

The following proverbs originate from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and most, if not all, are in use today. Fill in the blanks to complete the proverbs. Transfer the letters in circles, boxes and triangles to the line below. Then, unscramble the words to discover a three-word expression.

1. Haste makes \_\_\_\_\_ .      \_ \_ ○ \_ □
2. Look before you \_\_\_\_\_ .      \_ \_ \_ \_
3. Two \_\_\_\_\_ are better than one.      \_ □ \_ \_ \_
4. Don't look a \_\_\_\_\_ horse in the mouth.      ○ ○ \_ \_
5. Robbing Peter to pay \_\_\_\_\_ .      ○ \_ \_ \_
6. A new \_\_\_\_\_ sweeps clean.      \_ ○ \_ \_ \_
7. Make \_\_\_\_\_ while the sun shines.      □ \_ \_
8. One good \_\_\_\_\_ deserves another.      \_ \_ □ ○
9. Hitting the \_\_\_\_\_ on the head.      \_ \_ △ \_
10. Many \_\_\_\_\_ make light work.      \_ \_ \_ \_ △
11. Strike while the iron is \_\_\_\_\_ .      \_ \_ \_

Answers: 1. waste, 2. leap, 3. heads, 4. gift, 5. Paul, 6. broom, 7. hay, 8. turn, 9. nail, 10. hands, 11. hot.

Write letters in circles, triangles and squares here:



**Answer** (each word is spelled backwards to make it harder to see the answer accidentally):  
gnirps si ereh.

Unscramble the three words and write your answer here: