

3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

A JOURNEY INTO THE HEART



ENLIGHTENMENT

A Heart of Prayer

Leader:

We begin this time of prayer: in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader:

Faithful and compassionate God, you love us so much. As we continue to journey on the path to our hearts, bring us to a new understand of faith. Enlighten our hearts to become new in your love.

1st Reader:

Lord, you love changes us. It is hard at times to really be a person of love, but we are trying. The wonderful thing about your love, God, that it never fails and you know everything about us. What an amazing thing! But how do I understand this?

Let us consider God's inescapable presence in our life:

2nd Reader:

O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written all the days that were formed

for me, when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. Lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139)

Leader:

Continue to search our hearts Lord. Guide us always in our journey and may we always know of your presence in our life. Open our hearts that we may welcome you more.

All: Amen.

Leader:

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**GOD OF LOVE,
OPEN MY
HEART TO
A NEW WAY.**



A Heart of Discussion



God's Love is Endless

Reader:

When we think of how endless God's love is, is there anything that would stop God from loving us? (Pause)

Nothing ever stops God from loving us. God loves us so much that he gave his only Son, Jesus, so that we could live with God forever. What an amazing act of love!

God's love does not stop there. Each of us is loved by God and held as a special treasure in God's hands. We may at times not appreciate God's love in our life, but God's love always remains.

Jesus helps us understand just how endless God's love is in the *Parable of the Prodigal Son* (Lk 15:11-32). The parable teaches us that we sometimes make poor choices and neglect to see the consequences of our actions. However, we are always able to experience God's love if we make the choice to change. For just as the Father welcomed back his wayward son, God always welcomes us back to his loving heart.

As the Lenten Season continues, let us consider how we are returning to God's love.

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe the importance of God's love in your life.
2. What can we change to better appreciate God's love in our life?
3. Read Luke 15:11-32. What does the *Parable of the Prodigal Son* teach us about God's endless love.

A Heart of Action

To change our hearts, we need to change our actions. This week consider one of the following tasks:

1. Change in the world begins with us. Help out a community organization this week.
2. God's love is something we must share. Where in your community can you bring God's love?
3. Say a kind word to a person at school/work who appears to be having a bad day.

