

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus responds to those who criticize him for keeping company with the unworthy. Our Lord's care and compassion extend to the righteous and sinner alike. When we are lost, God doesn't wait for our return. He actively seeks us out. And when the lost are found, how could we not celebrate and rejoice?

READINGS:

- First Reading : Exodus 32: 7-11, 13-14
- Responsorial Psalm : Psalm 50: 3-4, 12-13, 17, 19
- Second Reading : Hebrews 1: 12-17
- Gospel : Luke 15: 1-32

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:

CELEBRANT: With confidence and trust in God, our compassionate Father, who is ever faithful to those who call on Him, we place our petitions before Him, saying:

Response: *Gracious Father, hear our prayer*

For Pope Francis, our Bishops, Priests and Religious: that their teachings of the infinite love and mercy of God, from the Scriptures, may be made visible in their ministry, especially of reaching out to those who may be lost *...(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord...

For world leaders: that they may see the futility of war and seek to resolve conflicts among and within nations as they work towards improving the quality of life for every citizen *...(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord...

For Christians the world over: that we may truly be Christ-like, and reach out to the vulnerable, the victimised, the destitute, the marginalised and those in most need of help *...(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord...

For each of us: that we may experience the tender love and mercy of God our Father, which comes to us even more profoundly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation *...(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord...

For our personal intentions and for those who have asked us to pray for them, we pray in silence *...(longer silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord...

CELEBRANT: We surrender our petitions to You, merciful Father, trusting in Your loving providence; as we make this prayer through Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever ... Amen.