

We Are Forgiven

Gathering Rite

Opening Song

“Children of God,” *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 5.

Procession

Leader: *Let us pray.
Make the Sign of the Cross together.*

Opening Prayer

Leader: *Good and gracious God, you are always ready to forgive us. Send us the Holy Spirit. Open our hearts and minds to know your forgiving love. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus.*

All: *Amen.*

Celebration of the Word

Leader: *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.*

All: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Read Luke 15:11–32.

Leader: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

All: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Sit silently.

Reflection

- What does the Gospel story tell you about God?

Prayer over the Children

Leader: *In the Gospel, Jesus told us about a father who loved his son very much. He watched and waited for him to come home. God, our Father, loves us, too. Even when we turn away from him, he waits to welcome us home.*

Leader: *[Name], God loves you and will always forgive you.*

Child: *Thanks be to God.*

Leader: *At the Savior’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:*

Pray the Lord’s Prayer together.

Closing Prayer

Leader: *May the God of peace fill your hearts with every blessing. May he strengthen you with the gift of hope. May he grant you all that is good.*

Child: *Amen.*

