

Welcome

Brody: Good morning! The second graders welcome you to our First Reconciliation Service. Today we gather to consider what we have done and what we have left undone, and to ask that from the ashes of the past, new life can spring up for us and for all members of God's human family.

Fiona: Thank you for joining us as we complete this special Sacrament and grow even closer in our relationship with God and our Church and School Family.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Charlotte: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. When Jesus taught people, he often told special stories called parables. A parable is a story that teaches a lesson. Jesus used these stories to explain the secrets of God's kingdom.

Brooklynn: One day, the teachers and leaders of a town Jesus was visiting complained about Jesus. They thought he was spending too much time with bad people. Jesus answered them by telling a parable about a man with two sons.

Charlie: Many years ago, there was a man who had two young sons. His sons lived with him and helped on the family farm. Everything was going well, but the younger son grew tired of the work he was doing and did not want to help his father anymore.

Lindsay: One day, he said to his father, "Father, give me my part of the property. I am leaving home to make my own life." The father was very sad because he did not want his son to go.

Aidan: But he gave the younger son the share that was coming to him. The son was very happy when he received the money. He packed up everything he had and made plans to leave home.

Junior: Before very long, the younger son went to a country far away from his father's house. He spent his time going to parties and having a good time. He bought himself and his friends everything they wanted. The younger son enjoyed the life he was living and did not think about his father or his older brother.

Jamie: But the day came when all the money his father had given him was gone. When he had spent everything, he looked for his friends to ask for help, but they were nowhere to be found. About this same time, a famine spread through the whole land. Soon he had nothing to eat.

Haley: The younger son decided to look for a job. He went to talk to a farmer. "Do you have any work I can do?" he asked. "I will do whatever you need." The farmer sent him out in the fields to care for the pigs. The younger son was glad to have the job. He was so hungry that he would gladly have eaten what the pigs ate!

Julia: While looking after the pigs, he remembered all the good things in his father's house. Finally, he came to his senses. "In my father's house even the servants eat well. And here I am dying of hunger!"

Damien: The son decided to return to his father and say to him, "I have made a big mistake! Please forgive me and let me come back as one of your servants." As he approached the house, his father saw him in the distance. He ran out to his son and hugged him and kissed him.

Natalie: The son said, "Father, I have sinned against God and you. I am not good enough to be called your son."

But his father called the servants and ordered that they give his son the best clothes, a beautiful ring, and new shoes. The father also ordered a great celebration to welcome his younger son.

Gil: The older son had been out working hard in the fields. When he learned that his father was having a feast to welcome his younger son, he became very angry.

Mya: The older son said, "Father, I have always worked for you and you never give me a feast! But when that son of yours comes back after spending all your money, you have a banquet!"

Gabriel: The father answered, "Son, you are always with me and all I have is yours. Your brother made a big mistake but he has returned. I thought he was dead—and he is alive. We must celebrate his return."

Joe: Jesus told this parable to help us love and accept anyone who is sorry for the bad things he or she has done.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.