



# The Shepherd's Voice

March 5, 2013

By Fr. Joe Rees

## 'Lost & Found'

**"It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."** Luke 15: 32.

As we approach the fourth Sunday in Lent we embark once more upon a fuller understanding of Sunday's passage of The Parable of the Prodigal Son. It's a very familiar passage to us and there have been many uses of this story Jesus told down through the centuries; in art (Rembrandt's famous painting) and in countless musicals and dramatic plays. This parable hits home. It speaks of the human condition. It reminds of original sin. It proclaims hope in God's mercy. It heralds His forgiveness. It marvels at redemption. It empowers us to live lives for God's sake with joyful obedience. Read and prepare for Sunday, and see that God's plan is to recover the lost and make His people 'found'. Yes, this is the Biblical story of 'Lost & Found'.

How many of us have had to realize that in coming home to the Father's house, it was precisely when we decided to turn around from our waywardness, that we really began to live anew. The prodigal was lost and dying. I've been there before. Perhaps you have too. What will change us from straying from God's ways? I believe there is only one answer. Billy Graham says that "unless the heart is moved by God, there will not be real change." When lost, the heart has to come to a place of deep sorrow and painful regret for actions that have been taken to ruin a life. Whether it be the man who walks out on his young family to find his 'true identity' and takes up with another woman (or vice-versa), or, a person who turns to drugs and destroys himself and the family he loves; the moment of rebellion seeks the way of satisfying the desires of the selfish will. Oh there are always plenty of excuses. In fact, the person is always in denial. The lost-ness of their

mind is doing its job. They are wandering in a maze of self-perpetuating degradation. But, perhaps a mom is praying desperately to the Lord, pleading for God's mercy upon her son. Perhaps a priest is praying; interceding for that tormented soul, or maybe a whole congregation, at prayer, pleading for the Holy Spirit to intervene in that lost life. Our mission is to pray for the lost that they may be found. Jesus Himself entered into villages and sought out the sinners, not the wealthy or righteous, and ate with them (took time) in order that they might be saved. (See Mark 2: 13-17)

There comes a divine moment in our lives when due to a mom or a dad praying, loved one or friend, the Lord enters into the heart of that wayward teen or troubled youth or corrupted young adult, and cracks it open. In the great spiritual divide, in those broken hearts, the Lord pours the balm of His truth, His love, and His mercy. God does heal those broken hearts. Hearts that have been healed by God never leave Him again. On the contrary, they live to bless Him. I believe in the power of that prayer. Many of you have said 'what can I do about so and so?' Pray. Pray that deep penetrating power of God's Spirit to surgically carve a river of Jesus' love into those rebellious hearts. Pray and make it known you are praying for them. "All I can do is pray for you...this is your life." (If they are still living under your roof, enforce the rules!) But, too often we rush in to bail them out. Let God's work do its mighty transforming power. This is the hard truth of Jesus' parable. Dad had to let his son go. The son had to hit bottom. Then, the son came to his senses. Life was good in the grace of his father's home...with God!

Now before all that ever happens; start early with those little ones, to teach them about God and His love for them, and how good it is to be in a God-believing home. They may test you, but they will know the boundaries, and the choices they make

most often will be remembering the fact of God’s presence in their lives because parents exemplified God’s presence in theirs.

Soon, we will have a great teen retreat coming to our Green Oak Ranch in Vista. It’s called “Rooted”, April 5-7, grades 6-12. It’s based on the Scripture from Ephesians 3: 17b-19. The weekend is one of the antidotes to prodigal life. The passage says, “And I **pray** that you, being *rooted and established in love*, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ...” Get your teen there. We have scholarship available. Apps are in the office. ‘Twenty some-things’ are welcome to go as chaperones. Let’s not see another wasted life due to wrong choices, waywardness and rebellion. Let’s send our teens and pray their hearts will be opened and their lives transformed. This is the answer. This among other Body of Christ-life

**Sunday Servers this week...**

<b>March 10, 2013</b>			<b>9:00 a.m. Service</b>
First Reader	Joshua 4:19-5:12		Pat Seelig
Psalm Reader	Psalm 34		Linnie Phelps
Second Reader	2 Corinthians 5:17-21	Second Sunday	Maureen Green
Intercessors		One Service	David Archer
Lay Euch. Ministers			Doug Hall, Dick Phelps
Acolytes			David A (C); Kalani C (T1); Zachary J (T2)
Welcomers			Anna Teixeira, Paula Sholly
Ushers			Dink N, Ted V, Jackie L, April K
Vestry Person of Day	Alfred Focke		
Healing Ministers			Ann & JR Fox, Kay & Alfred Focke
Announcer			Judy Gillease

engagements will keep them on the right path in life. If you don’t have a teen, consider sponsoring one, or add to the scholarship fund. If we give God a chance with them on retreat, they will be **rooted** and live new lives. They will find their way. They won’t have to go through that process that perhaps we did of being first lost and then found.

May God grant His mercy and grace to us as we remain rooted in Him.  
Love in Christ,  
Fr. Joe

(P.S. We’re starting a new service on second Saturday evenings at 7pm especially for teens and young adults. Pass the word. Starts this Saturday with a pizza dinner at 6pm.)

**Don’t Forget!**

Set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Daylight Savings Time starts on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Pizza and Praise!**

**Join us on Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m. for Pizza and Salad followed by our new once-a-month Praise and Worship service with Holy Eucharist. Fr. Barry Montgomery will be there to assist with the service.**

**Prayers & Squares**

Join us on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. for a time of fellowship and sewing the comforting prayer quilts that are prayed over on Sundays

**Kairos Cookie Time!**

Please bring one or two dozen homemade cookies in a clear plastic bag (no paper plates) to church on Sunday. This is the only time the cookies will be collected this time. Please – no raisins. If your cookies have nuts in them please put a label on the bag with that information to help with allergies.

**New Series on the History Channel- The Bible – Sundays at 5 p.m. 10 p.m. on the History Channel.**

## Sunday at Grace

### Fellowship Sunday

9:00 a.m. – One Service.

9:00 a.m. Children's Church

10:45 a. m. Fellowship and food

March 10<sup>th</sup>

One Service at 9:00 a.m.

followed by fellowship and food. Bring your favorite fruit salad to share. We'll provide the rest.

## Readings for Sunday

Joshua 4:19-5:12

Psalm 34:1-8

II Corinthians 5:17-21

Luke 15:11-32

We are using the English Standard Version of the Bible and the Lectionary from the Book of Common Prayer (Year C)

### This Week at Grace –Mar. 5- Mar. 12, 2013

#### Tues. March 5

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study

4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC

6:30 p.m. Lenten Potluck Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. Donna Brayton's Class

#### Wed March 6

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

3:30 p.m. **Alpha Club for Kids**

6:30 p.m. Youth Group

#### Thurs. March 7

7:00 a.m. Bible Study

10:00 a.m. Sr. Women's Fellowship

11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at the Oasis

7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

#### Fri. March 8

Fr. Joe's day off

6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Eucharist at Grace

#### Sat. March 9

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship

9:30 a.m. Prayers & Squares

10:00 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

**Set your clocks ahead one hour tonight for Daylight Savings Time**

#### Sun. March 10

9:00 a.m. One Service

8:45 a.m. Nursery opens

9:00 a.m. Children's Church

10:45 a.m. Fellowship and food

#### Mon. March 11

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

#### Tues. March 12

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study

4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC

6:30 p.m. Potluck Fellowship Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. Donna Brayton's Class

### Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m.

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of the Book of Isaiah. Everyone is welcome. B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

**Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.  
Morning Prayer At Grace Anglican  
All are welcome to attend.**

**Weekly** – There are over 25 small groups meeting during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of all the groups or you can find the list on our website: [www.graceanglicanchurch.com](http://www.graceanglicanchurch.com).

### Save the date!

Mar. 5 Donna Brayton's Class

Mar. 9 Prayers & Squares – 9:30 a.m.

Mar. 9 Worship Team Rehearsal 10 a.m. to noon

Mar. 9 Daylight Savings Time –set clocks ahead.

Mar. 10 One Service Sunday – 9:00 a.m.

Mar. 12 Donna Brayton's Class

Mar. 13 Soaking Prayer

Mar. 15 A Time of Liturgical Contemplation

Mar. 19 Donna Brayton's Class

Mar. 20 Br. Benno's Team – 6:15 a.m.

Mar. 20 Vestry Meeting

Mar. 23 Contemplative Prayer Retreat 10-1

Mar. 23 Traditions of Easter – Families 10-1

Mar. 24 Palm Sunday services at 8 and 10:15 a.m.

Mar. 28 Maundy Thursday – Foot Washing service

Mar. 28 All Night Prayer Vigil –9:00 p.m.-6:00 a.m.

Mar. 29 Good Friday Services – Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 30 Holy Saturday/Great Vigil of Easter 7 p.m.

Mar. 31 Easter Sunday – Services at 8 & 10:15 a.m.

Apr. 5-7 "Rooted"-Youth Min. at Green Oak Ranch

Apr. 10 Soaking Prayer

May 3 Anglican Men's Retreat at Forest Home