

Jesus invites us to celebrate God's forgiveness.

WE GATHER

✝ Jesus, lead us in your loving ways.

Why do you think friends and family members forgive each other?

How do they show their forgiveness?

WE BELIEVE

When Jesus was on earth, he forgave people's sins. He showed them God's mercy. He wanted people to know that God would always love and forgive them. Jesus wanted them to understand God's forgiveness. So he told the story of the lost sheep.

 Luke 15:4-6

There was a shepherd who took care of one hundred sheep. One day one of the sheep wandered away. The shepherd left the other ninety-nine sheep. He searched for the lost one until he found it. The shepherd put the sheep on his shoulders and carried it. When he got home, he called together his friends. He said, "Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep." (Luke 15:6)

Sin separates us from God and one another. When we sin, we are like the lost sheep. But Jesus has given us a way to come back together again. The word *reconciliation* comes from a word that means "coming back together again."

Jesus has given us a way to receive God's forgiveness. The Church celebrates this forgiveness in the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

WE RESPOND

Think about Jesus' story of the lost sheep. How does it help you to know more about God's love?

Pray together.

Jesus, thank you for giving us a way to celebrate God's forgiveness and love.

