

Repent and Be Saved

A prayer service to be used with Chapter 8: A Turning Point in the Journey: The Destruction of Judah's Exile, and Return.

Leader: Like Jonah, we have all had times of running from the Lord, dodging what he wants for us, seeking to take the easy way out. For Jonah, God intervened and showed him the need for repentance in a big way (getting swallowed by a fish!). Let us turn to the Lord today and repent for the times we have chosen not to love and follow him.

Reader 1: A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jonah (Jn 2:3-8),

Out of my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me;
From the womb of Sheol I cried for help, and you heard my voice.
You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the sea, and the flood enveloped me;
All your breakers and your billows passed over me.
Then I said, "I am banished from your sight!
How will I again look upon your holy temple?"
The waters surged around me up to my neck;
the deep enveloped me; seaweed wrapped around my head.
I went down to the roots of the mountains; to the land whose bars closed behind me
forever, but you brought my life up from the pit, O Lord, my God.
When I became faint I remembered the Lord;
My prayer came to you in your holy temple.
The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Turning to God, we ask for forgiveness. The response is, "out of our distress, we call to you, Lord."

Reader 2: For not living as if you are enough to satisfy all our longings,

Reader 3: For being deaf to your call to serve, loving neighbor as ourselves,

Reader 4: For being prideful, envious, jealous, angry, lazy, and desiring things of the world over you.

All: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. Restore us and accomplish in us the work of salvation. Amen.