

4th Sunday of Lent: In the story of the Prodigal Son that we hear today in worship, the elder son hears music and gets angry that his father is rejoicing at the return of his brother. What are you hearing these days that makes you angry? Bring that to God in prayer.

Luke 15: 25,28.31 - 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing ... Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him...Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'

Monday: Today pay close attention to the sounds you hear. Notice the sound when the heat kicks on, when the water runs, when cars pass. Let those remind you to pray for God to open your ears to God's word and help you speak of God's presence.

Isaiah 40:28 - Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

Tuesday: Today be aware of the times you struggle to hear or understand what is being said to you. Let those times remind you that God longs to open our eyes, ears and hearts so that we might turn to God and be healed. Pray for God to open you and heal you.

Matthew 13.15 - For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn—and I would heal them.

Wednesday: In worship tonight we will hear how the voice of Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb. The word of God has the power to raise us to new life each new day as well. Today pay attention to loud voices and loud sounds and let them remind you of how God's voice pierces the sounds of death and despair and calls us into life.

John 11: 41b-44 - And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I

have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Thursday: Today as you listen to or read the news, think about the cries of those in need. Let those stories remind you that God hears and answers our cries. Let the stories remind you to pray for those in need.

Exodus 2:23b-25 - The Israelites groaned under their slavery and cried out. Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God looked upon the Israelites and God took notice of them.

Friday/Saturday: This weekend, notice the times that you aren't able to be heard by others for whatever reason. Perhaps you call a loved one and get an answering machine, or someone you are with doesn't seem to be able to listen to you. Let these times remind you of how God hears and answers us.

Psalms 40:1- I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

