

SEPTUAGESIMA

THE COLLECT

O LORD, we beseech thee favourably to hear the prayers of thy people; that we, who are justly punished for our offences, may be mercifully delivered by thy goodness, for the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost ever, one God, world without end. Amen.



1. Why is this Sunday called Septuagesima Sunday?
A. Septuagesima is a Latin word, meaning seventieth
B. The first Sunday in Lent being forty days before Easter, was for that reason called Quadragesima Sunday, which in English, is fortieth; the Sunday before that, though only forty-seven days from Easter was called Quinquagesima, which means fiftieth, that being the next round number above forty. The Sunday preceding Quinquagesima was called Sexagesima (sixtieth); and this Sunday was called Septuagesima (seventieth).
2. What is the design of the Church in appointing these Sundays?
A. As the design of the Sundays in Advent is to prepare us for a religious commemoration of the Advent, or coming of Christ, so the intention of the Church, in this and the following Sundays, is to call us back from our Christmas rejoicing, in order to prepare us for the holy season of Lent.
3. How do we beseech God to hear the prayers of his people?
A. f _____ (Job 33:26)
4. For what are we justly punished?
A. For our _____. (Nehemiah 9:33)
5. By what do we pray to be delivered?
A. By God's _____ (Psalm 25:7)
6. How will that deliverance tend to the glory of God's name?
A. Because it will show forth his g _____



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INTRODUCTION.

Christmas and Epiphany are times of joy. Lent, a time of sorrow. It is not easy to turn from joy to sorrow, so the Church, like a kind mother helps us on these three Sundays, Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima to make the change.

The reason of the sorrowful season of Lent is the thought of sin, and we ought to think about sin today. What does the Collect say about it? What is it called? What does it deserve? What do we ask God to do? But there is a condition, there is no relief from sin except through repentance.

I. CHARACTER OF REPENTANCE. Read: St. Luke 15:11-25

What does Repentance mean?

1. We have just read about a man who repented. *He had left his home* because he thought it an irksome, straight-laced uncomfortable place. He went to a far country because he thought it a fine place where he had no restraint and could do as he liked.
2. He came to find out that the far country was a place of *famine* and *hunger*, and then he remembered that his father's house was at least a place of *plenty*.
3. *i.e. He changed his mind*, and that is just the meaning of repentance—it is a change of mind.

II. COURSE OF REPENTANCE.

Contrition.

1. **He was sorry** because he was hungry and miserable. That is the first step, we find that sin brings misery; but if that were all it would end in despair. Judas got as far as that,
2. **His father received him with love and pardon.** He saw what his sin had done, how it had grieved his father. Though he was no longer hungry or in fear he was still sorry more than before. So when we are forgiven we are no longer sorry because of the dread punishment, but we look at the Cross and we see what our sin cost Jesus, and how He loved us through all.
3. **With his father's help** and friends he began to care for better things and was sorry as he looked back on his life because he began to dislike sin.

Confession.

1. **He prepared a confession**, and when he got home he spoke it; although it was a "form" it was very real.
2. **We must confess our sins definitely to God.**
3. **We must also confess to those we have injured.**
4. Sometimes, if we need comfort and counsel, we must confess to someone who can help us—father, mother, teacher, or clergyman.

Conversion.

1. **He turned away** from the far country. Conversion means turning. We need to turn away from sin and turn our face to Him.

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