

MARCH 24, 2019
THIRD SUNDAY
IN LENT



An urgent call to repentance.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree
Monday	Isaiah 55:1-9	Abundant life
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Warnings from Israel's history
Wednesday	Ezekiel 18:25b-32	Repent and live
Thursday	Luke 3:1-9	The fruit of repentance
Friday	Hosea 14:1-9	Return to the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 63:1-8	Comfort in God's presence
Sunday	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Psalms 63:1 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to repent of our self-centeredness to discover your steadfast love and joy. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who satisfy our every need, we thank you for this food, a reminder of the feast you promise us through your steadfast love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord of abundance fill you with God's steadfast love and send you on your way with joy and gladness.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Lord Jesus, Think on Me



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about something you want to see happen soon.
- Tell or think about a time you have been really thirsty and without water or when you have wanted something very much and did not have it at the moment.
- Repentance in the Bible literally means to have a new mind, to change your way of thinking. How is longing for God with your whole being (Psalm 63:1) a form of repentance?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 13:1-9.

Jesus was addressing people's questions about those who had died in tragic accidents. Did these people die because they sinned? Jesus points out that the questioners misunderstand the work of God. The people asking Jesus are in the same situation as those who died tragically. Jesus says, "... unless you repent, you will all perish as they did" (Luke 13:3, 5). Jesus tells the parable of the fig tree to point out the immediate need for repentance. We can easily see the call to repentance as a requirement to be remorseful with a commitment to do better. However, biblical repentance is much more than that. It is a discovery filled with a passionate desire to have what is missing in life, God's steadfast love (Psalm 63:1-8). In Isaiah 55 the invitation to the free feast describes this kind of repentance, a change from hunger and poverty to being fully satisfied without want. True repentance brings not only regret but joy, a gladness that does not want to be delayed. How can repentance or being sorry for something done or said bring you joy?

Pray: **God of steadfast love, my soul thirsts for you as in a dry land without water. Help me to hear your urgent call to repentance. Help me to be fully satisfied without want. Amen.**

SERVICE



In the parable of the fig tree (Luke 13:6-9), we are reminded of the importance of bearing fruit, fruit that represents a living faith satisfied by God's goodness. The man in this story asked to have one more year to fertilize the tree and grow fruit on it. Let your heart overflow with thanksgiving and bear fruit of loving service. In what ways within the next year can you share God's goodness with others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The Bible uses feasts as a way to celebrate life in God's loving presence. During Lent some have the tradition of fasting, which began as early as the 600's. Since eggs, fat, and milk were forbidden, legend tells us that a monk made the first pretzel as a Lenten bread using only water, flour, and salt. He formed the dough into the commonly used prayer position. Arms were crossed on the chest. The Germans called them *brezels* and they became a traditional food during Lent throughout Europe in the middle ages. Buy pretzels in this shape and as you feast on them, talk about different ways you pray.

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

