

Order of Service, Readings, and Prayer

Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025

THE GATHERING

Welcome

Parish Announcements

Congregational Meeting

Prelude

- *Confession and Forgiveness p. 94
- *Hymn *“Wash O God Our Sons and Daughters”* No. 445
- *Greeting & Kyrie p. 138
- *Prayer of the Day Insert

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

- First Reading – Isaiah 55:1-9
- Psalm 63 (read responsively) Insert
- Second Reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- *Return To The Lord p. 142
- *Holy Gospel Luke 13:1-9
- Children’s Message Rev. Tim Kneuss**
- Children’s Church**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

- The Message Rev. Tim Kneuss**
- *Hymn *“As Rain From The Clouds”* No. 508
- The Apostles’ Creed back of hymnal
- Anthem *“A Green Hill Far Away”* Choir
- *Blessing of Offerings
- *The Prayers of Intercession p. 143
 - P: God, in your mercy,
 - C: receive our prayer.
- *The Lord’s Prayer – Traditional p. 145

SENDING

- *The Blessing p. 146
- *Sending Song *“Rock of Ages”* No. 623
- *The Dismissal p. 146

**The Congregation will stand in reverence.*



Today's Readings

Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
²Why do you spend your money for that
which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not
satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is
good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
³Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting
covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴See, I made him a witness to the
peoples,
a leader and commander for the
peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do
not know,
and nations that do not know you shall
run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy
One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

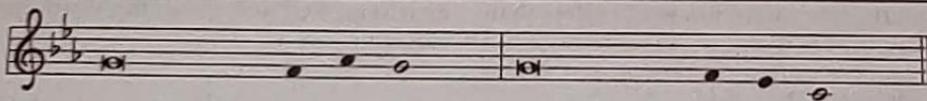
⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may
have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly
pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the
LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the
earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalm

Psalm 63:1-8; tone 9



O God, you are my God;
eager-¹ly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you,
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land
where there¹ is no water.
²Therefore I have gazed upon you
in your¹ holy place,
that I might behold your power¹
and your glory.

³For your steadfast love
is better than¹ life itself;

my lips shall¹ give you praise.

⁴So will I bless you as long¹ as I live
and lift up my hands¹ in your name.

⁵My spirit is content,
as with the rich-¹est of foods,
and my mouth praises you
with¹ joyful lips,

continued

Psalm, continued

⁶when I remember you up-¹ on my bed,
and meditate on you
in¹ the night watches.

⁷For you have¹ been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings
I¹ will rejoice.
⁸My whole being¹ clings to you;
your right hand¹ holds me fast.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,³ and all ate the same spiritual food,⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in

sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

TODAY'S READINGS March 23, 2025

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Next Sunday's Readings: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.

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5 of 15