

# SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

LENT 3 (YEAR C)

## COLLECT

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Isa 55.1-9*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord says this: 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. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline 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. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, 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. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let 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. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*from Ps 63*



**R.** O God, you are my God, for you my soul is athirst. (*All repeat*)



O God, my God, for | you I long;  
for you my soul | is athirst.  
All my being | pines for you  
as thirsty | land for rain. **R.**

In the sanctuary I | come to you  
to behold your glo-ry and might.  
To know your love is better than | life itself;  
therefore my lips shall | praise your name. **R.**

So will I bless you | all my days,  
and lift my | hands in prayer.  
My soul shall feast up-|on your love;  
my heart exults in | you, my God. **R.**

For you, O God, have | been my help;  
beneath your wings I | dwell secure.  
My soul shall ever | cling to you,  
and your right hand shall | hold me fast. **R.**

## SECOND READING

*1 Cor 10.1-6,10-12*

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did; nor complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These 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. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Mt 4.17*

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

Repent, says the Lord:

for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

GOSPEL READING

*Lk 13.1-9*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vine dresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig round it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look favourably upon our sacrifice, Lord, and grant us this grace: that as we pray to be forgiven ourselves, we may be quick to forgive others; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**