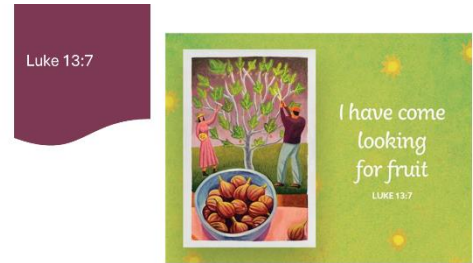


The Readings on This Day

***Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)

Third Sunday in Lent

The readings throughout Lent lead the church back to the font of baptism (“come to the waters”; “all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea”) and to the celebration of the resurrection (“come to me, that you may live”). All the readings call upon the faithful to repent of their sins and to dedicate themselves to productive lives. God is near and will nurture our growth.



[Isaiah 55:1-9](#)

The poem from Second Isaiah provides apt background for the gospel from Luke. Human notions about punishment and mercy are different from God’s exuberant covenant invitation to pardon and free food. Christians have interpreted this poem as a call to the sacraments of baptism and communion, and think of Lent as a time for seeking this God who wishes to be found.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

Having heard Isaiah’s poem calling us to the divine waters, we respond by singing [Psalm 63:1-8](#). In the metaphors of this poem, we are thirsty, the land is dry, yet we anticipate the richest of foods that God provides. We are helped by God to search for God.

[1 Corinthians 10:1-13](#)

Paul sees Israelite history in light of Christ: “the rock was Christ.” The common religious idea that God punishes sinners is both cited and criticized, for Paul writes that none of us can claim an inherent goodness. For Christians, the cloud and the wind are signs of the Holy Spirit.

[Luke 13:1-9](#)

Soon Jesus himself, like some Galileans, will die at the hand of Pilate. Although the passage includes the commonplace religious idea that God punishes sinners, Luke’s rendition of the fig tree stresses instead divine mercy. We are granted yet another year: be glad for the manure.