

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 20, 2022

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices.

Jesus said to them in reply,

“Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans?

By no means!

But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!

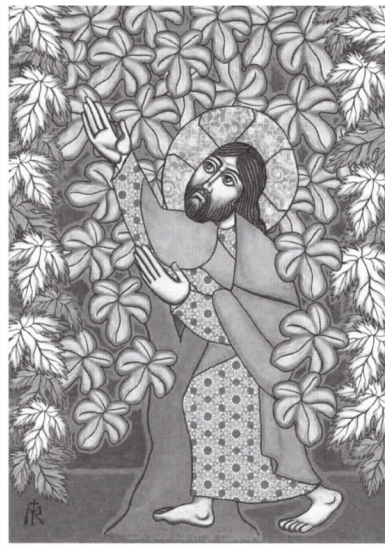
Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem?

By no means!

But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!”

And he told them this parable:

“There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener,



‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.

So cut it down.

Why should it exhaust the soil?’

He said to him in reply,

‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future.

If not you can cut it down.’”

Readings for the week:

3rd Sunday of Lent

Exod 3:1-8a, 13-15
Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11
1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12
Luke 13:1-9 (or other readings)

Monday

2 Kgs 5:1-15ab
Pss 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4
Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday

Dan 3:25, 34-43
Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9
Matt 18:21-35

Wednesday

Deut 4:1, 5-9
Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20
Matt 5:17-19

Thursday

Jer 7:23-28
Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
Luke 11:14-23

Friday

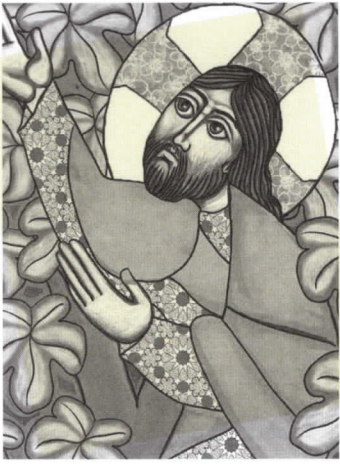
Annunciation
Isa 7:10-14; 8:10
Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11
Heb 10:4-10
Luke 1:26-38

Saturday

Hos 6:1-6
Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab
Luke 18:9-14

4th Sunday of Lent

Josh 5:9a, 10-12
Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
2 Cor 5:17-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (or other readings)



Opening Prayer

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reflecting on Living the Gospel

In the judgment of the orchard owner in today's gospel reading, time has run out for the tree that had not borne fruit for three years, and it needs to be cut down. It is all "take" from the soil that must also nourish the other trees, and no "give." But the gardener begs his master to be patient and allow him another year of extra effort, of digging round and fertilizing the tree to see if it will bear some fruit. If it still does not, then it can be cut down. By choosing this reading for Lent, the church suggests that the loving patience of our God is giving us another chance to do some seasonal gardening on ourselves: to loosen the soil around our personal and communal earthbound roots with the tools of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; to fertilize our lives with the rich Lenten liturgy of Word and sacrament; and to strengthen, not weaken, one another by mutual care and kindness.

The tree is a fig, a sturdy tree. Unlike some of our indoor plants, fig trees do not droop and die overnight. It takes a long drought, continuous and insidious gnawing at the roots, or protracted neglect to make a fig tree barren. And what about us? What has gradually dried up and withered our Christian lives? Are there small infidelities gnawing away at the roots of our baptismal commitment? Are we failing to cultivate or prune our discipleship so that the sap of the Christ-life may continue to rise within us? Like the Galileans and the victims of the Siloam collapse, we can never be sure how many "next years" lie ahead of us. "Today," this Lent, is the important time of conversion.

Closing Prayer

Loving God, thank you for the gift of this day and the opportunity to grow in relationship with you. Do not give up on us, but give our hearts the opportunity to bloom and grow. In your generous love help us remain faithful to your Gospel and the way of life to which we are called. **Amen.**

For Reflection:

- Where have you seen a fruitless fig tree bloom in your life? What was your process for cultivating fruit?

Suggestions for group and individual use:

1. Pray aloud the "Opening Prayer" (in *The Roman Missal* called the "collect").
2. One person read aloud the gospel.
3. Each read prayerfully "Reflecting on Living the Gospel" and spend some time in personal prayer.
4. Share together responses to "For Reflection."
5. Pray the "Closing Prayer."

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Living Liturgy™ Sunday Bulletin. Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota 56321. © 2021 by Order of Saint Benedict www.litpress.org 1-800-858-5450

Announcements
03/19/22 to 03/20/22

Financials: 03/07/22 – 03/13/22

Weekly Collection Goal \$2400	Total \$3936.00 Over 1536.00	
In Church	\$	2656.00
Mail In	\$	00.00
On Line Giving	\$	1280.00

Today's Second collection is for Catholic Relief Services. Your generosity will help with their many programs, including the USCCB Office for International Justice and Peace, Migration and Refugee Services, relief work of the Holy Father, and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network. Mahalo for your kokua!

Important Message from Bishop Larry Silva regarding:

WORLDWIDE CONSECRATION OF RUSSIA AND UKRAINE TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

In light of the tragic invasion of Ukraine by Russia, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has decided to pray a Prayer of Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at a Penance Service at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome at 5:00 p.m. Rome time, on Friday, March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation. He is inviting all bishops and priests to do the same. Since people may want to participate in the Pope's service on-line or via television (6:00 a.m. Hawaii Time), I am asking all priests to pray the Prayer of Consecration at every Mass offered at the parishes on the Solemnity of the Annunciation (including anticipated Vigil Masses, if any). Please let the people of the parishes know this weekend by way of an announcement that all will be asked to participate in this worldwide prayer for peace. The Holy See will soon send the text of the prayer, which we will share as soon as it is received.

Bread Report from Kathy Texeira ~

God truly blessed us with a total of 25 volunteers this month! We welcomed Youth from the Peros, Haake, Ponce and Nakagawa families. They were on Spring break and shared their time and talent with us. Some are planning to join us next month as well. It really helped lighten the load! With miscellaneous donations less expenses, Net profit \$1,788.81. Thank you All. Our next bread pick up day is Tuesday April 19th, 8 a.m. through Noon.

Next weekend, Second collection is for Maintenance Fund.

Next Sunday, March 27th – Parish Council Meeting @ 10 a.m. in Hall.

Have a Blessed Week!