

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

24TH MARCH 2019

First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7–20

A reading from the Book of Prophet Ezekiel

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel? ¹² And you, mortal, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not save them when they transgress; and as for the wickedness of the wicked, it shall not make them stumble when they turn from their wickedness; and the righteous shall not be able to live by their righteousness when they sin. ¹³ Though I say to the righteous that they shall surely live, yet if they trust in their righteousness and commit iniquity, none of their righteous deeds shall be remembered; but in the iniquity that they have committed they shall die.

¹⁴ Again, though I say to the wicked, “You shall surely die,” yet if they turn from their sin and do what is lawful and right— ¹⁵ if the wicked restore the pledge, give back what they have taken by robbery, and walk in the statutes of life, committing no iniquity—they shall surely live, they shall not die. ¹⁶ None of the sins that they have committed shall be remembered against them; they have done what is lawful and right, they shall surely live. ¹⁷ Yet your people say, “The way of the Lord is not just,” when it is their own way that is not just. ¹⁸ When the righteous turn from their righteousness, and commit iniquity, they shall die for it. ¹⁹ And when the wicked turn from their wickedness, and do what is lawful and right, they shall live by it. ²⁰ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is not just.” O house of Israel, I will judge all of you according to your ways!

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 85

- ¹ LORD, you were favourable to your land:
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- ² You forgave the iniquity of your people:
you pardoned all their sin.
- ³ You withdrew all your wrath:
you turned from your hot anger.
- ⁴ Restore us again, O God of our salvation:
and put away your indignation toward us.
- ⁵ Will you be angry with us for ever:
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- ⁶ Will you not revive us again:
so that your people may rejoice in you?
- ⁷ Show us your steadfast love, O LORD:
and grant us your salvation.
- ⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak:
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
- ⁹ Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him:
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet:
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
- ¹¹ Faithfulness will spring up from the ground:
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
- ¹² The LORD will give what is good:
and our land will yield its increase.
- ¹³ Righteousness will go before him:
and will make a path for his steps.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

The First Letter of Paul The Apostle to The Corinthians

¹⁰ 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. ⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do 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.” ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ 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. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No 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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel

Luke 13:1–9

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹³ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or 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? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” ⁶ Then 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. ⁷ So 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?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

'As the heavens are higher than earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts', says the Lord.

Isaiah 55.9

Prayer of the day

O God, the fountain of life,
to humanity parched with thirst
you offer the living water that springs from the Rock,
our Saviour Jesus Christ:
stir up within your people the gift of your Spirit,
that we may profess our faith with freshness
and announce with joy the wonder of your love.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Supplementary Readings

Leviticus 16.15-22
Psalm 123
Luke 22.54-71

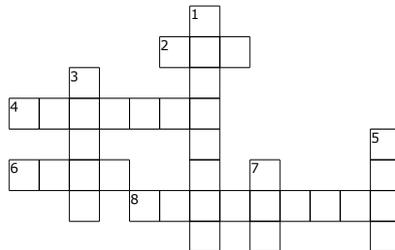
Prayer Response

Lord, in your love
and mercy,
**hear us and
help us.**

Living a Fruitful Life

" 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' " Luke 13:8-9 (NIV)

Based on Luke 13:1-9



ACROSS

- The sweet, pear-shaped, fruit of a plant found in Bible lands.
- A simple story teaching a moral or religious lesson.
- The top layer of the earth's surface favorable to plant growth.
- To spread a something on land or plants to help plants grow.

DOWN

- An area of ground planted with vines and fruit trees.
- The usually sweet-tasting part of a tree which can be eaten.
- A large plant with a trunk, limbs, branches, and leaves.
- To break up and move dirt using a shovel.

DIG	VINEYARD	TREE	PARABLE
FIG	FERTILIZE	SOIL	FRUIT