

# Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT—March 24, 2019

## First Reading — Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

<sup>1</sup> Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian; and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and lo, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> And Moses said, "I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt." <sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I." <sup>5</sup> Then he said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD said, "I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup> and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ...

<sup>13</sup> Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the

God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': this is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

## Responsorial Psalm PS 103: 1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11.

R. (8a) **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul;  
and all my being, bless his holy name.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.

R. **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

He pardons all your iniquities,  
heals all your ills,  
He redeems your life from destruction,  
crowns you with kindness and compassion.

R. **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

The LORD secures justice  
and the rights of all the oppressed.  
He has made known his ways to Moses,  
and his deeds to the children of Israel.  
R. **The Lord is kind and merciful.**  
Merciful and gracious is the LORD,  
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who  
fear him.

R. **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

## Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

<sup>1</sup> I want you to know, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same supernatural food <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same supernatural drink. For they drank from the supernatural Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless with most of them

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God was not pleased; for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things are warnings for us, not to desire evil as they did. <sup>10</sup> ...nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.

<sup>11</sup> Now these things happened to them as a warning, but they were written down for our instruction, upon whom the end of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup> Therefore let any one who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

### **Gospel Reading — Luke 13:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> There were some present at that very time who told him of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered thus? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen upon whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who dwelt in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> And he said to the vinedresser, 'Lo, these three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down; why should it use up the ground?' <sup>8</sup> And he answered him, 'Let it alone, sir, this year also, till I dig about it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup> And if it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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### INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

### Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

### INVITATION TO REFLECT

### INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

**First Reading — Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15**

1. In what ways can Lent become a process of turning aside to see and hear from God?

**Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12**

2. For what behavior did God express displeasure with Israel? How would you restate in positive terms the lesson this passage teaches?

**Gospel Reading — Luke 13:1-9**

3. Why do people feel that another's, misfortune is the result of personal sinfulness?
4. What are the conditions that bring a person to repentance?
5. What needs to take place in your life, or the life of your community to enhance fruitfulness?

### INVITATION TO ACT

*Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.*

### CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

*Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another's openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.*