

Lent 3—Sunday, March 24

Isaiah 55:1-9

¹Ho, 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.
²Why do you spend your money for that which is
 not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
³Incline 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.
⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵See, 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.

⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;
⁷let 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.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalm 63:1-8

¹O God, you are my God, I seek you,
 my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you,
 as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
²So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
 beholding your power and glory.
³Because your steadfast love is better than life,
 my lips will praise you.
⁴So I will bless you as long as I live;
 I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

⁵My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
 and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
⁶when I think of you on my bed,
 and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
⁷for you have been my help,
 and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
⁸My soul clings to you;
 your right hand upholds me.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do 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." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them

did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These 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. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No 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.

Luke 13:1-9

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or 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? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then 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. ⁷So 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?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Questions

Overall Lent Questions:

Before you read today, check yourself -

1. How do you feel about Lent?/How are feeling about this Lenten season?
2. How do you feel walking with Jesus on his journey through this time of his suffering, betrayal, and death? How do you feel walking with those around you on your Lenten journey?
3. What do you want from Jesus this Lent? Be specific.
4. What do you think Jesus wants for/from you during Lent?

Entering the Text:

1. What word/phrase stands out to you?
2. What do these texts say about who God is?
3. What do these texts say about who we are?
4. What do these texts say about our relationship - or lack thereof - with God?
5. What good news do you hear

Digging Deeper:

1. What does it mean to "thirst" for God? Have you ever experienced that "thirst" for God in your faith journey?
2. Isaiah 55 comes toward the end of the chunk in Isaiah where the prophet is offering comfort and a new promise for the Israelites. For quite some time, they'd been living in exile in Babylon and had been "drinking the wine" of desperation, exile, and estrangement rather than the goodness of God.
 - a. Thinking of your own life and surroundings, what do you long for?
 - b. What do you/we "drink" that dries us out?
3. Do you believe that God allows you to be thirsty/to experience spiritual thirst? If so, for what reason?
4. What goodness do you think God might have in store for you? What hinders you from experiencing/trusting that goodness?
5. How, or when, have you called upon the Lord throughout your life?

Prayer of the Week:

Jesus, in a world where my wants and needs are instantly gratified, I'm unfamiliar with what it means to be hungry or thirsty. All around, distractions numb me from the barren terrain of my heart and soul; so, instead of seeking your truth, I hide from you, and from myself, even though I know that my heart and my soul longs for something more. So Jesus, I ask you to break through the crust of fear and indifference that surrounds my heart. Expose me to the truth of your love, that I may live more and more into the goodness you have in store for me, leading me deeper and deeper into relationship with you. In your name, Amen.