

MARCH 23, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY
IN LENT



We are fed by God's love to bear good fruit.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree
Monday	Isaiah 55:1-9	Abundant life
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Warnings from Israel's history
Wednesday	John 15:1-11	Jesus the true vine
Thursday	Colossians 1:9-14	Paul thanks God for the Colossians
Friday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 63:1-8	Comfort in God's presence
Sunday	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

Psalm 63:3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, feed us with your loving power so that our lives may reflect your love for others through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for the food that feeds us, your love that strengthens us, and your call to love others that inspires us, we give you thanks in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God surround you with love.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Beloved, God's Chosen



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What difference does it make if you practice something daily?
- What are some of your daily practices that strengthen your faith to live a life of loving service?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 13:1-9.

We can be tempted to evaluate the successes or failures of others and sometimes speculate about their futures. In Luke 13, Jesus stops this speculation and turns our attention back to ourselves to look at our own lives. We are to live lives that reflect a God-centered life (repentance). Our lives are valued and are to bear the fruit of our loving God. In Jesus' parable of the fig tree, the unfruitful tree is not cut down immediately. For three years the tree is nurtured to bear fruit. A fourth year is even added to give it a chance to produce fruit. Our lives are to bear the fruit of God's love in Christ. We must be fed and cared for so that we may bear the fruit of a God-centered life. Our inspiration to be nurtured in faith is not the fear of being cut down but the love of God in Christ that feeds us and frees us to love God and our neighbor.

Discuss: What practices (like prayer, worship, reading Scripture, service, or other Christian traditions) help feed you so that you may bear the fruit of a God-centered life?

Pray: **Nurturing God, you feed us with the power of your love through Christ; help us that we may enjoy a life of repentance through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you support and nurture the life of someone else?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Prayer is an important spiritual practice for Christians. During this Lenten season, take time to focus on the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4). This third week in Lent we reflect on "Give us each day our daily bread" (v. 3). Add this verse to verses 2a and 2b from the first and second weeks in Lent by writing it around the outside of the cross drawn on the paper the first week. Take a moment to think or talk about what this verse means to you.

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org