

Questions for Reflection

Luke 13:1-9 tells the story of a fruitless fig tree that the owner is ready to cut down. The gardener, however, asks for a little more time. The gardener wants to tend and cultivate the soil in the hope that figs may yet grow. The gardener is open to a different future for this tree, in spite of its present condition. Think about your own life, or the life of someone you love, in relationship to this story: What needs special tending? What will cultivate the “soil” of daily life so that new growth, new possibilities, might emerge? And what can you learn from this gardener about allowing for a different outcome, a new possibility?

For Your Study and Reflection This Week **Third Sunday in Lent**

Isaiah 55:1-9

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food. (v. 2)

Psalms 63:1-8

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
when I think of you on my bed
and meditate on you in the watches of the night,
for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. (vv. 5-7)

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

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. (v. 13)

Luke 13:1-9

Then [Jesus] told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘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?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’” (vv. 6-9)

TWO-YEAR DAILY LECTIONARY

Year 1

Week of 3 Lent

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

Psalms 93, 96 (*morning*)

Jer. 6:9-15

1 Cor. 6:12-20

Mark 5:1-20

Psalms 34 (*evening*)

Monday, March 24, 2025

Psalms 80 (*morning*)

Jer. 7:1-15

Rom. 4:1-12

John 7:14-36

Psalms 77, [79] (*evening*)

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Psalms 78:1-39 (*morning*)

Jer. 7:21-34

Rom. 4:13-25

John 7:37-52

Psalms 78:40-72 (*evening*)

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Psalms 119:97-120 (*morning*)

Jer. 8:18—9:6

Rom. 5:1-11

John 8:12-20

Psalms 81, 82 (*evening*)

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Psalms [83] or 42, 43 (*morning*)

Jer. 10:11-24

Rom. 5:12-21

John 8:21-32

Psalms 85, 86 (*evening*)

Friday, March 28, 2025

Psalms 95 & 88 (*morning*)

Jer. 11:1-8, 14-20

Rom. 6:1-11

John 8:33-47

Psalms 91, 92 (*evening*)

Saturday, March 29, 2025

Psalms 87, 90 (*morning*)

Jer. 13:1-11

Rom. 6:12-23

John 8:47-59

Psalms 136 (*evening*)

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Psalms 66, 67 (*morning*)

Jer. 14:1-9, 17-22

Gal. 4:21—5:1

Mark 8:11-21

Psalms 19, 46 (*evening*)

Household Prayer: Morning

Gracious God,
this new day carries the potential for growth and new life.
Help me attend to those things in me
that need care and attention.
Sow your word in me
that I may grow in faithfulness and understanding.
Shake me out of dull routines,
so that I may take part in the good news
you continue to tell urgently and passionately.
In Christ's name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

As I lie down this night in the shadow of your wings,
God of my life,
I know that you will be with me
even as you have helped me through this day.
Whether I am weary from the day,
or whether the day has been a rich feast of blessings,
I give thanks for your power and glory,
which are present in every circumstance.
As I give myself over to rest and sleep,
I remember that your steadfast love is better than life.
So, I pray, surround me with your love tonight and always.
In the peace of Christ I pray. Amen.