



<sup>4</sup>So will I bless you as long<sup>1</sup> as I live  
and lift up my hands<sup>1</sup> in your name. **R**  
<sup>5</sup>My spirit is content, as with the rich-<sup>1</sup>est of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with<sup>1</sup> joyful lips,  
<sup>6</sup>when I remember you up-<sup>1</sup>on my bed,  
and meditate on you in<sup>1</sup> the night watches.  
<sup>7</sup>For you have<sup>1</sup> been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I<sup>1</sup> will rejoice.  
<sup>8</sup>My whole being<sup>1</sup> clings to you;  
your right hand<sup>1</sup> holds me fast. **R**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1–13**

A reading from first Corinthians.

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, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>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." <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>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.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 13:1–9**

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

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

**Faith Talk:**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Are you a patient or an impatient person? What do you find it hard to be patient about?
- Read Jesus' parable about the fig tree (Luke 13:6-8). Where do you see patience shown in this story? How is God patient with us?
- How do you think God would like to see you grow or change in the next year of your life?

**Devotional Practices:**

The theme of repentance runs through the Bible readings for March 11. God gives us the Ten Commandments to show us his will for us, and to lead us to examine our thoughts, words and actions. In your home devotion times this week, listen together to the Ten Commandments and talk about what they mean.

- You shall have no other gods.
- You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- Honor your father and your mother.
- You shall not kill.
- You shall not commit adultery.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's spouse, or their manservant, or their maidservant, or their cattle or anything that is your neighbor's

**Service:**

Isaiah 55:1-2 says "Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters." Commit to drinking only water at home this week. Estimate what you will save as a result and donate it to a worthy cause. Use this opportunity to reflect on God's gift of water and our new birth through the waters of baptism.

**Rituals and Traditions:**

Make crosses from bars of hand soap as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice to cleanse us from our sins. Draw a cross shape on each bar of soap, then carefully carve away the excess soap using a table knife. Place soap crosses in your bathroom and kitchen soap dishes, or in the kids' baths. You could also place soap crosses in small gift bags to give away to friends and relatives.



**Daily Bible Readings:**

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Luke 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree
Monday	Jeremiah 11:1-17	Judgment against the olive tree
Tuesday	Ezekiel 17:1-10,22-24	Two eagles and two cedar shoots
Wednesday	Ezekiel 18:25b-32	Repent and live!
Thursday	Hosea 14:1-7	Return to the Lord
Friday	Luke 3:1-9	The fruit of repentance
Saturday	Psalm 34:11-22	Turn from evil and do good
Sunday	Luke 15:1-3,11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father

**Scripture Verses for the Week:**

Turn to the Lord! He can still be found. Call out to God! He is near. Give up your crooked ways and your evil thoughts. Return to the Lord our God. He will be merciful and forgive your sins.  
- Isaiah 55:6-7 (CEV)

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

**Prayer for this Week:**

Lord God, please keep me from falling away from you. Help me to stand firm. Amen. (1 Corinthians 10:12-13)

**For Throughout the Day:**

Lord God, I turn to you. Please show me mercy. Amen. (Isaiah 55:6-7)

**A Blessing to Share:**

*May God satisfy your deepest needs. May he show you his kindness and be your helper. Amen. (Psalm 63:3-7)*

**Mealtime Refrain:**

God's love is better than life: **Let us praise him.** (Psalm 63:3)

**Mealtime Prayer:**

*Mealtime is here, O what a spread!  
Thanks be to God, who gives us bread. Amen.*

