

## Weekly Word – Third Sunday in Lent

March, 23, 2025

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Our readings for today are Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

In Isaiah 55:1-3 we are told, “Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 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. Incline 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.” In our normal day to day living this statement does not make any sense. In life we are taught by parents, teachers, and society that nothing is free. Each one of us can have just about anything, if we work for it and earn it. We can have a house, car, all the creature comforts we want, and as many vacations we want, if we apply ourselves and earn the money to pay for it. The world is your oyster! This is the dream of a lot of people. We work to earn enough for the next “thing” we want, trying to satisfy the part of our being that can only find comfort on God. St Augustine said, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.” In essence that is what we try to do with gathering more and more stuff. More and more things. Trying to fill the void in each one of us that can only be satisfied with a relationship with God. We use all kinds of things to distract ourselves, but to no avail, until we come to the saving Grace found in Jesus. This offer of close personal relationship with Jesus, on the surface, doesn’t make sense. In our human understanding, why would God choose a relationship with people like us? In Romans 3:23 we are told, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”, yet God still wants a close personal relationship with each one of us. This is the heart of God, that each one of us come to Him, just as we are, and ask Him to forgive us, and to come into our lives. The best part is, is that He is wanting and waiting for us to invite Him into our lives, 1 John 1:1-2 says, My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only

but also for the sins of the whole world.” Jesus took the penalty for our disobedience when he chose to die on The Cross over 2000 years ago. His love for us is beyond our understanding, as it says at the end of the Isaiah reading for today, (55:6-9) ” Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let 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. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” He longs for us to call on Him, not out of fear, or rationalization, but out of Faith and Love.

The choice is in each one of our hands. What is yours?