



Liturgy Cycle C

## **Third Sunday Of Lent** **Unless You Repent**

### **Introduction**

Today in the Gospel we will hear the words of Christ: 'Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.' To repent means to be converted, and conversion is the starting point of every spiritual journey, and is a prerequisite for entry into the kingdom of God. It implies that we recognise the presence of sin in our lives and our world. Some of us may say we have no sins, at least no serious ones, in our lives. But what about our sins of omission? What about the good we could do but which we don't do?

### **First Reading (Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15)**

God has seen the miserable state of his people in Egypt. He takes pity on them and decides to free them through the leadership of Moses. It shows God's concern for those who are oppressed.

### **Second Reading (1 Cor.10: 1-6, 10-12)**

Though all the people of Israel were led out of Egypt and enjoyed God's protection in the desert, yet because of their infidelity most of them perished there. There is a great lesson and a warning in this for us Christians.

### **Gospel (Luke 13:1-9)**

Jesus says that the misfortunes which befall people are no indication that they are sinners. Yet, to his Jewish hearers, he stresses the necessity of repentance and tells them that time is running out.

### **Prayer Of The Faithful**

Let us pray to our Lord that we may learn the lesson of his parable and be converted to the Gospel.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

It is by producing good fruit that a tree shows that it is healthy. Let us pray that all Christians may be prepared to give rather than to receive. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

Christ was the gardener who asked that the tree be given another chance. That all those in authority may be kind and merciful towards those they serve. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.



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**For all those whose lives are barren and empty of the deeds of love: that they may get the grace to do something about it. We pray in faith.**

**R: Lord, hear us in your love.**

**That in our lives we may not be content merely to produce the fruits of outward observance, but that we may strive to produce the fruits of humility, patience, forgiveness, generosity and peace. We pray in faith.**

**R: Lord, hear us in your love.**

**That we may persevere with our efforts to renew our lives this Lent. We pray in faith.**

**R: Lord, hear us in your love.**

### **Communion Reflection**

**What I fail to do.**

**It isn't the things you do,  
it's the things you leave undone,  
which give you a little heartache  
at the setting of the sun.**

**The gentle word forgotten,  
the letter you didn't write;  
the flowers you might have sent,  
are your haunting ghosts tonight.**

**The stone you might have lifted  
out of your brother's way;  
the little heart-felt counsel  
you were hurried too much to say.**

**The tender touch of the hand,  
the gentle and kindly tone;  
which we have no time or thought for,  
with troubles enough of our own.**