



CELEBRATING AT HOME
3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

The patient gardener (Luke 13:1-9)



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Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

We stand in your presence, O God;
and we praise your holy name.

May your mercy be upon us, O Lord;
as we place our trust in you.

Show us your mercy and love;
and grant us your salvation.

Preparing to hear the Word

You, Lord, come to us with your loving and gentle touch, to reveal the hidden ways we destroy wholeness of spirit, and to encourage us toward repentance and peace.

**Led by your Word throughout this Lenten journey,
may we bear the fruit of your love.**

For we are not our own!
We are chosen by Christ!

We live not for ourselves:
we live and die for the Lord!

Now is the acceptable time!
We return to the Lord with all our heart!

Now is the day of salvation!
We repent and we believe the Good News!

Holy Spirit come!
**Heal us with your love,
that we may bear fruit once again.**

Scripture Reading (Luke 13:1-9)

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose

that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

Reflection - *The patient gardener*

If the Gospels of the first two Sundays of Lent (temptation and transfiguration) are a parable about Christian life (a journey out of and away from temptation and into being transfigured by God's grace), the Gospels of this Sunday and next give us the 'road map'.

How do we get from temptation to transfiguration? Only with repentance and God's forgiveness. That's the road map for our Christian journey.

Oh, how we love a good story about disaster befalling someone else! The strength of Jesus' reply to those who told him about the crucified Galileans seems to indicate that they shared this news with some delight.

Jesus' reply tells us not to assume that bad things happen only to bad people and not to think that disasters are some kind of punishment for sin; stop thinking about the guilt of others and put your energy into repentance - turning back towards God.

The parable of the Fig Tree which follows answers the question, 'If we do repent, what sort of reception will we get from God?' God will work with us like the gardener in the parable. He will treat us with kindness and tenderness and nurture us back to life so that we can produce good fruit.

Quiet time for reflection

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Prayers of Intercession

May the Church be re-formed and re-shaped
by our Lenten journey and Easter joy.

Pruned by love and forgiveness,
**may we bear the fruit of your spirit
in every word and action**

May we always treat with deep reverence
the holy ground of human life.

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Closing Prayer

Gracious God,
with tender care you nurture our spirits,
forming us into the likeness of your Son
as we make Lenten journey.
Keep us close to you through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

May your blessing be with us, O Lord,
keeping us safe,
and bringing us to life.
Amen.



Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites for use by individuals, families and small groups as a prayerful celebration of the Word of God to help prepare us to celebrate the Eucharist with our worshipping communities. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. We are also conscious of the many people who, for various reasons including sickness and infirmity, cannot physically attend the Eucharist. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family.



The Carmelites
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