

Readings for 22 and 23rd March, 2025 - Third Sunday of Lent

YEAR C – 8am and 6pm Sunday.



On this Sunday is celebrated the first scrutiny in preparation for the Baptism of the catechumens who are to be admitted to the Sacraments of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil, using the proper prayers and intercessions from the Ritual Mass: For The First Scrutinies.

Year A readings may be used, especially where there are catechumens, so we are using Year A readings at 6pm Saturday and 10am Sunday masses, and using Year C readings at 8am and 6pm on Sunday masses.

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is not said.

First Reading

Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell

them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,

who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and
compassion. (R.)
3. The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are
oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)
4. The Lord is compassion and love
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the
earth
so strong is his love for those who fear
him. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who

thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

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."

The Creed is said.

Communion Antiphon

John 4:13-14

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.

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Readings for 22 and 23rd March, 2025 - Third Sunday of Lent

Year A – 6pm Saturday and 10am Sunday

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is not said.

First Reading _ Exodus 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Give us water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

(R.) If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

- 1 Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;

hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;

let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**
3. O that today you would listen to his
voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw
my work.' **(R.)**

Second Reading _ Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we
are judged righteous and at peace with God,

since it is by faith and through Jesus that we
have entered this state of grace in which we
can boast about looking forward to God's
glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the
love of God has been poured into our hearts
by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.
We were still helpless when at his appointed
moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not
easy to die even for a good man – though of
course for someone really worthy, a man
might be prepared to die – but what proves
that God loves us is that Christ died for us
while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation _ See John 4:42. 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst
again.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel _ John 4:5-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called
Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his
son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus,
tired by the journey, sat straight down by the
well. It was about the sixth hour. When a
Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus
said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples
had gone into the town to buy food. The
Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You
are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a
drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with
Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering
and who it is that is saying to you:
Give me a drink,
you would have been the one to ask,
and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered
'and the well is deep: how could you get this
living water? Are you a greater man than our
father Jacob who gave us this well and drank
from it himself with his sons and his cattle?'
Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water
will get thirsty again;
but anyone who drinks the water that I
shall give
will never be thirsty again:
the water that I shall give
will turn into a spring inside him, welling
up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that
water, so that I may never get thirsty and
never have to come here again to draw
water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus
to her 'and come back here.' The woman
answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to
her, 'You are right to say, "I have no
husband"; for although you have had five, the
one you have now is not your husband. You
spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a
prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers

worshipped on this mountain, while you say
that Jerusalem is the place where one ought
to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
You worship what you do not know;
we worship what we do know;
for salvation comes from the Jews.
But the hour will come – in fact it is here already –
when true worshippers will worship the Father in
spirit and truth:
that is the kind of worshipper
the Father wants.
God is spirit,
and those who worship
must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah
– that is, Christ – is coming; and when he
comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am
speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

At this point his disciples returned, and were
surprised to find him speaking to a woman,
though none of them asked, 'What do you
want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to
her?' The woman put down her water jar and
hurried back to the town to tell the people,
'Come and see a man who has told me
everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the
Christ?' This brought people out of the town
and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him,
'Rabbi, do have something to eat'; but he
said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know
about.' So the disciples asked one another,
'Has someone been bringing him food?' But
Jesus said:

'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me
and to complete his work.
Have you not got a saying:
Four months and then the harvest?
Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the
fields; already they are white, ready for harvest!
Already the reaper is being paid his wages,
already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life,
and thus sower and reaper rejoice together.
For here the proverb holds good:
one sows, another reaps;
I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked
for. Others worked for it;
and you have come into the rewards of their
trouble.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed
in him on the strength of the woman's
testimony when she said, 'He told me all I
have ever done', so, when the Samaritans
came up to him, they begged him to stay with
them. He stayed for two days, and when he
spoke to them many more came to believe;
and they said to the woman, 'Now we no
longer believe because of what you told us;
we have heard him ourselves and we know
that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Communion Antiphon _ John 4:13-14

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.