

About the Third Sunday in Lent
Theme: The Necessity of Repentance
– *highlighting the Scriptures for the week* –

Ezekiel, addressed by the title, “son of man,” is warned that he must call his fellow Hebrews to repentance. If he does not do so, he will be held personally accountable. In addition, the people will die. The result of not repenting is described by the Apostle Paul in stating that his fellow Hebrews succumbed to temptation and left their bones in the desert (1Corinthians). God will settle for nothing less than repentance. He both plants His tree and seeks the fruit; He patiently cares for it. (Luke) Yet if it’s barren, it finally must be cut down. The Christian life is always a life of repentance.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Use the schedule below in your personal devotion. The first three readings are the lessons read today; the last three will be read next Sunday. The Wednesday reading is the psalmody for the week. Each day you may want to pray that Psalm or the prayer printed in our service folder today, followed by the suggested reading and your personal requests and Thanksgivings to our Heavenly Father.

- Sunday** Ezekiel 33:7-20 Why is Jeremiah addressed by the title, “son of man”? What has he been asked to do? Why? What are the consequences if he doesn’t do as asked? What does this mean for us today?
- Monday** 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 What unique blessings did God give to the Israelites in the Sinai wilderness? What happened to them nonetheless? Why? What lesson can we learn from this? Why are idolatry and sexual immorality particularly disastrous to the people of God? What examples of both are prevalent in our society today? What is the responsibility of the baptized faithful in such surroundings? How is this done?
- Tuesday** Luke 13:1-9 Do disasters happen only to sinners? What is the continuing responsibility of every faithful Christian? What was the man in the parable of Jesus looking for? What is God looking for in our lives? What did the man in the parable decide to do with his unproductive fig tree? How did the gardener plan to make it productive? What does God do to make His faithful people productive? How is He doing that in your life? What does this mean?
- Wednesday** Psalm 85 How has the LORD shown favor both to the land and to His people? What, therefore, is the response of the psalmist? What does this mean for us today?
- Thursday** Isaiah 12:1-6 What is the antidote to worry and fear? What is the content of the church’s song? How is the LORD’s saving work made known among the nations? How is His Name proclaimed? How is the Holy One present among His people? Why therefore does the church sing? What does this mean?
- Friday** 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 What is one part of the destiny of every human being? Why does Paul commend himself to his readers? What is the result of Christ having died for all? What difference does this make in our daily living? Why? What does this mean for us today?
- Saturday** Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 What bothered the Pharisees about what Jesus did? Who are the characters in the parable of the lost son? How did the younger son show that he despised the father’s house? Where did he end up? What happened when he came to his senses? What was his planned solution to his dilemma? How did the Father change his plans? How did the older brother react to the Father’s love? How did the Father respond to the older brother? What does this parable show about God? About sinners? About how to respond to restored sinners? About the Father’s House?