



1st Reading	Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15	2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
Responsorial	Psalms 103:1-4, 6-8, 11	Gospel	Luke 13:1-9

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION OR DISCUSSION

In the first reading, God comes down to Moses and speaks these words from the burning bush: *“I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore, I have come down to rescue them.”* The reading continues with these words: *“Moses said to God, ‘But when I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ if they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what am I to tell them?’ God replied, ‘I am who am.’ Then he added, ‘This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you.’”*

1. How do God’s words show that he is a faithful God who comes down to his people to rescue them?
2. In what ways has God, through Jesus Christ, rescued you from the power of sin and death and the power of the world, the flesh, and the devil? What areas of your life still need God’s intervention?
3. In the ending words, God responds to Moses’ request to tell him his name: This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you. What does this name tell you about who God is, and his nature?

The Responsorial Psalm begins with these words of praise: *“Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.”* The psalmist then describes these many benefits: *“He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills, He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion. The LORD secures justice and the rights of all the oppressed.”* It ends with these powerful words: *“Merciful and gracious is the LORD, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.”*

1. How would you summarize the reasons given for these words: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits? What are some reasons for you to bless the Lord?
2. In light of what Christ has done for you, what are some ways you can be an imitator of Christ and be Merciful and gracious and slow to anger and abounding in kindness to others--especially to those who may have wronged you?

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds the Corinthians of what happened to the Israelites in the desert: *“I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, and all of them were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was the Christ. Yet God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the desert.”* He goes on to say, *“These things happened as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil things, as they did. Do not grumble as some of them did, and suffered death by the destroyer.”*

1. What message was St. Paul trying to convey to the Israelites with his words? In what ways are they a reminder for us not to desire evil things or grumble - which can often cause discord or harm to others?
2. What steps can you take during Lent to be an encourager and faith builder to your family and others?

In the Gospel, Jesus warns the people of assuming that the sufferings or misfortunes of others were caused by their sins. These examples are given: *“Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus said to them in reply, ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did! Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!’”*

1. What message do you think Jesus was trying to convey to the people by the examples he gives?
2. Why do you think he tells the people (and us) that if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did?
3. How can you reach out more to others who are suffering no matter what the cause?

Take some time now to pray and thank the Lord for his great mercy and love toward you and all your loved ones. Use the prayer below as a starting point.

“Lord Jesus, I am so grateful that you are merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in kindness” (Psalm 103:8).