

because I, the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, have made you glorious.” Seek the Lord while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near. Let the wicked change their ways and banish the very thought of doing wrong. Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously. “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts”.

Psalm 63:1-8 BAS page 783

Second Reading: (Diane McLeod) 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Introduction: Paul tells the Christians at Corinth that Baptism and Eucharist do not magically ensure salvation! The ancient Israelites went through a kind of baptism at the Red Sea, and in the wilderness ate manna, a kind of heavenly food. This did not keep them from sinning. Christians must not depend on special status, but must live faithfully.

I don't want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground. In the cloud and in the sea, all of them were baptized as followers of Moses. All of them ate the same spiritual food, and all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the spiritual rock that travelled with them, and that rock was Christ. Yet God was not pleased with most of them, and their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. These things happened as a warning to us, so that we would not crave evil things as they did, or worship idols as some of them did. As the Scriptures say, “The people celebrated with feasting and drinking, and they indulged in pagan revelry.” And we must not engage in sexual immorality as some of them did, causing 23,000 of them to die in one day. Nor should we put Christ to the test, as some of them did and then died from snakebites. And don't grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death. These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age. If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

Gradual Hymn: 355 All Creatures of Our God and King

Gospel: Luke 13: 1-9

Introduction: Referring to some recent local disasters, Jesus addresses an age-old question: Why do terrible things happen to some people? It was commonly thought that all disasters were God's way of punishing for sin. Without giving credence to this, Jesus calls all people to repentance. The parable of the fig tree tells of the triumph of mercy over judgment.

About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were offering sacrifices at the Temple. “Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?” Jesus asked. “Is that why they suffered? Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God. And what about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners in Jerusalem? No, and I tell you again that unless you repent, you will perish, too.”

Then Jesus told this story: “A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if there was any fruit on it, but he was always disappointed. Finally, he said to his gardener, ‘I've waited three years, and there hasn't been a single fig! Cut it down. It's just taking up space in the garden.’

“The gardener answered, ‘Sir, give it one more chance. Leave it another year, and I'll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. If we get figs next year, fine. If not, then you can cut it down.’”

Homily: Rev. Bahman

Statement of Faith:

Celebrant: Let us confess our faith, as we say,

All: We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female. We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, he died forsaken. He descended into the earth, to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present, and his Kingdom will come on earth. We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the church, Spirit of resurrection and eternal life. Amen

(You may be seated, kneel or stand as is your custom of prayer)

Prayers of the People: Pray for Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Hong Kong Island - The Most Revd Paul Kwong. Niagara: Good Shepherd, St. Catharines; Ven. Bruce McPetrie, Diocesan Administrator and the people of that parish. Cuba: The parish of La Transfiguracion in Tabor; the Rev. Evelio Perez Rubi, Ministro Encargado and the people of that parish. Uruguay: The parish of St. Augustine's, Jardines del Hipódromo, Montevideo; Rev. Never Araugo, rector and the people of that parish.

Litany 5 BAS page 114

Confession & Absolution BAS page 191

The Peace

Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn: 070 Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

Prayer Over the Gifts: Spring of life and Source of goodness, receive all we offer you this day, and being us to the living water, Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen

Eucharistic Prayer 1 BAS page 193

The Lord's Prayer (contemporary) BAS page 211

Breaking of the Bread 7 BAS page 213

**ALL PERSONS WHO SEEK A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD ARE WELCOME TO RECEIVE COMMUNION**

Communion Hymns:

062 Come, Let Us Eat

073 One Bread, One Body, One Lord of All

063 Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

072 Bread Of Heaven, On Thee We Feed

061 As We Gather at Your Table

Prayer After Communion: God of our pilgrimage, we have found the living water. Refresh and sustain us as we go forth in our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Doxology (sung) BAS page 214

Announcements

Closing Hymn: 533 *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

Dismissal

**Please join us for Coffee and Conversation
and Lenten study
in the Alderson Room following today's service**

Prayer List

The sick of our parish and for our friends, family, and loved ones who are unwell.

Please pray for:

Kay Turvey, Dante and family, Ginette, Avis, Janet, Marilynn, Pam, Wendy, Linden and baby Hayden, Hazel's family, Sue Bond, Sarah, Jerry & Jen Dawson, Charlie Gregory, Jean Peer, Consuella, Heather Dyer, Bev Nethercott, Colin, John McClung, Bill and family, Joan, Robert, Tyler, Lucas, Randy, Mel, Al Rathbone, Brooke Stark, Ed Shaw, Niki

Announcements

UPCOMING EVENTS & SERVICES

Thursday, March 4 – 10 a.m. Tansley Service

Sundays in March (7, 14, 21, 28) – Lenten Study following coffee hour

LEPROSY CANADA – Please continue to leave your used or new stamps in the Bell Tower.

CANADIAN TIRE MONEY – please continue to deposit your Canadian Tire money in the box in the bell tower, for Christmas Market use this year.

ST. JOHN'S COOKBOOK – in honour of our 175th anniversary a new edition of the St. John's Cookbook will go to print! Please submit your favourite recipes to Deborah Warner by email (if possible) at djaw99@gmail.com

BY POPULAR DEMAND – Lenten Loonies are back ☺. A wonderful spiritual discipline for Lent. Place a loonie (or toonie) in your Lenten Loonie canister each day of Lent. When your canister is full, place it on the collection plate. AND... if you are really having fun – take another one!!! Pick yours up in the Bell Tower today - there's plenty for everyone!

FREE SUNDAY BRUNCH – on your way out pick up your “buy one get one free” Sunday brunch flyer for Tucker's Marketplace – in the bell tower.

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL 2010 – Saturday, April 24th 9:30 – 3:00 Grace Church, Waterdown (157 Mill St. N.) A wonderful event for children – worship, storytelling, music, games, friendship and more. \$5 per participant. For more info contact Susan Wells 905-741-8007

**Juice from St. John's
Thank you for your continued support!**

VICTORIAN TEA – This year, St. John's has been given the opportunity to combine our Victorian Tea with the Museums of Burlington. Everyone is invited to attend a re-enactment – “A Historic Ireland Wedding” on June 6th from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Starting at Ireland House, you can attend the 10 a.m. bridal breakfast and wedding shower, then progress to St. John's for the actual 1:00 p.m. wedding ceremony in the church and Victorian Tea reception. Tickets are available from Patty Nethercott – \$15 each or children/seniors \$12. Please note....the price is the same whether you attend the entire event or just the Victorian Tea.

ST. JOHN'S RECTORY – our new tenants move in March 1. We wish to thank everyone (especially the property/stewardship committee and their significant others ☺) for their hard work and extremely physical labours. Cy, on behalf of the property/stewardship committee wishes to thank Christmas Market for their donation of \$1500 which assisted in defraying the costs of repairs and improvements to the rectory.

RECTORY KEYS – would **all persons** with rectory keys please hand them in to the office.

We are in need of chocolates and novelties to fill plastic eggs to help the Easter bunny hold a successful hunt following the service Easter Sunday. Please leave your donations (cash welcome) in the large basket in the Bell Tower. Thank you for your support!



CANTERBURY CAMP – support of the summer camp at Canterbury Hills has been reduced by the Diocese this year. Please help send children/youth to residential and day camp this summer by leaving your spare change in the jar in the Bell Tower.

**It Took
85
Years**

To Look This Good

INVITATION TO ALL: Please join the Sears' family to honour Harold's 85th birthday next Saturday, March 13 from 2-5 p.m. in the Alderson Room. Featuring live Dixieland jazz of Subourban Street.

Best wishes only!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAROLD!