

3rd Sunday of Lent
(Yr C)

Reading 1

Citation: Exodus, Chap. 3, Verses 1-8a, 13-15
Exodus 3: 1-8a, 13-15

You must put yourself into each of the two characters to be believable. Change volume level, pace, voice tone to help make the distinction. How does Moses feel as the story unfolds (how would YOU feel)? God is all business; Moses is not too sure. Help your listeners put themselves in Moses' place!

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law
Jethro,
the priest of Midian. (matter-of-factly)
(very short pause)

Leading the flock across the desert,
he came to Horeb,
the mountain of God. (almost parenthetical)

There
an angel of the LORD appeared to Moses
in fire
flaming out of a bush. (NOT a heavy stress)
(concern, startling!)
(very short pause)

As he looked on,
he was surprised to see that the bush,
though on fire,
was not consumed. (concerned reporting)
(not quite parenthetical)
(some amazement) (very short pause)

So Moses decided,
"I must go over to look at this remarkable sight,
and see why the bush is not burned." (inquisitive, intense)

When the LORD saw him coming over to look at it more closely,
God called out to him from the bush,
"Moses! Moses!" (matter-of-fact)
(raise volume slightly)

He answered,
"Here I am."
God said, (confident)
"Come no nearer!
Remove the sandals from your feet,
for the place where you stand is holy ground. (commanding)
“
“

I am the God of your fathers,"
he continued, (what is God's voice like?)
"the God of Abraham, (parenthetical expression ?)
the God of Isaac,

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the God of Jacob." (short pause)

Moses hid his face,
for he was afraid to look at God. (quicker pace?)
(parenthetical expression)

But the LORD said,
"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. (reassuring)
(confident)

Therefore
I have come down to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians
and lead them out of that land
into a good and spacious land,
a land flowing with milk and honey." (confident)
"

Moses said to God, (what does Moses' voice sound like?)
"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?" (questioning tone)
(not sure about this)

God replied, "I am who am." (great confidence, awesomeness)

Then he added,
"This is what you shall tell the Israelites:
I AM sent me to you." (insisting)
"

God spoke further to Moses,
"Thus shall you say to the Israelites:
The LORD,
the God of your fathers,
the God of Abraham,
the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob,
has sent me to you. (very short pause)

"This is my name forever;
thus am I to be remembered through all generations." (Pause)

The word of the Lord.

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Reading 2

Citation: 1 Corinthians, Chap. 10, Verses 1-6, 10-12
1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12

St Paul is reminding the Jewish followers of Christ, here, that God expected His people to keep their end of the bargain (covenant). Even though Jesus has changed everything, he reminds his listeners that they must trust Jesus and NOT themselves! Have an urgency in your voice. Didn't Paul?

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

I do not want you to be unaware, (the double negative takes some work!)
brothers and sisters,
that our ancestors were all under the cloud (very short pause)
and all passed through the sea, (very short pause)
and all of them were baptized into Moses
in the cloud and in the sea. (assurance!)

All ate the same spiritual food,
and all drank the same spiritual drink,
for they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, (very short pause)
and the rock was the Christ. (short pause)

Yet (very short pause)
God was not pleased with most of them, (concern)
for they were struck down in the desert. (some sadness?)

These things happened as examples for us, (very short pause)
so that we might not desire evil things,
as they did. (parenthetical)

Do not grumble as some of them did, (admonishing)
and suffered death by the destroyer. (almost parenthetical?)

These things happened to them as an example, (told-you-so!)
and they have been written down as a warning
to us, (cautionary)
upon whom the end of the ages has come. (insistent)
(confidence)

Therefore, { **slow down almost word-for-**
whoever thinks he is standing secure { **word through the end of**
should take care not to fall. { **the sentence** (Pause)

The word of the Lord.

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Gospel

Citation: Luke, Chap. 13, Verses 1-9
Luke 13: 1-9

Jesus loves His fellow-Jews but He is pointing out to them that some things that occur are not necessarily directly tied to God's actions! At the same time, though, He is reminding them of their side of the Covenant (death being the result if they don't hold it up!). He then helps them see that changing the way they live may just be what they need to do to save themselves from spiritual death. He implies that if they see this as a poor gamble they'll die anyway – they have nothing to lose and everything to gain! Be Jesus and help your listeners "hear" His words.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans
whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. (very short pause)

Jesus said to them in reply,
"Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way (questioning)
they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? (very short pause)
By no means! (very insistent)

But I tell you,
if you do not repent,
you will all perish as they did! (very short pause)

Or those eighteen people who were killed
when the tower at Siloam fell on them – (very short pause)
do you think they were more guilty (frustrated questioning?)
than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? " (very short pause)

By no means!
But I tell you, (insistent)
if you do not repent,
you will all perish as they did!" (short pause)

And he told them this parable:
"There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard,
and when he came in search of fruit on it
but found none, (disbelief?)
he said to the gardener,
'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree (frustration)
but have found none.
So cut it down. (he's mad!)
Why should it exhaust the soil?' (very short pause)

He said to him in reply,
'Sir, (pleading tone)

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leave it for this year also,
and I shall cultivate the ground around it
and fertilize it;
it may bear fruit in the future.
If not you can cut it down."

"
(some confidence)
(more confidence)
(hopeful tone)
(resignation) (Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.