

March 23rd
Third Sunday in Lent

“Beyond Your Strength”

Main Text: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
(Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9)

This new thing that God is doing does not depend on our strength. Our reading from Isaiah comes as hope to a people who had felt cut off from God's blessing and disconnected from God's grace. This word of hope is a word of grace and invitation. The people of Israel are invited into this new thing God is doing with no charge and no cost. All they need to do is return to the Lord, not because they deserve it but because God invites them. The same grace is what we are invited to receive through Jesus Christ. Many believed that when tragedy occurred that somehow those impacted deserved what happened to them. Many have twisted this reading from 1st Corinthians to imply the same thing. The implication is that God chooses the tests we can handle. Yet, careful reading of this text reveals that testing happens to all of us. It's not that we can't be tested beyond our endurance, it is that we can endure because God provides the way out or through. St. Luke's does not have the strength to create our own new thing. This is beyond our strength. God, however, is making a way through and about to do something new by grace.