

Heart ♥ to ♥ Heart



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Third Sunday of Lent 2022

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1st Reading: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 103: 1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

The Community of Israel Experiences the Presence of God

“*T*here the angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in flames of fire from within the bush.” He was amazed by the bright light and looked closer, then from within the bush he heard a voice calling his name. Moses answered, “Here I am.” He was told to reverence the “holy ground” or the earth he was standing on. In this personal experience of Moses (just like Adam, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob), Moses represents the people of Israel.

“And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.” God heard and saw God’s people in their most desperate moment in their history; Moses (as Israel) is commissioned to re-create the nation of Israel.

The Hebrew creation story describes the God of Israel creating the skies and the earth...“and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.” In the Hebrew language the Spirit of God is “*ruah*,” meaning breath, wind or spirit. In the Yupik/Cupik language the Holy Spirit is “*Tanqilria* (bright light) *Anerneq*” (breath).

Psalm 103 is a thanksgiving song of an individual expressing the personal experience of healing of serious illness and forgiveness attributed to the closeness of God and sung during public liturgical worship by the people of Israel.

Moses’ and Israel’s experience of God is a communal experience. They come to know God as community and in community.

How is your experience of the presence of God expressed and experienced in your community?

—Josephine Aloralrea, OSU
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