

March 23, 2023

 Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH LENT

Photo by Alan Carrillo from Unsplash

REBELLIOUS SPIRIT AND STEADFAST LOVE

By Sister Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Responsorial Psalm

R. (4a) Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

*They fashioned a calf at Horeb,
bowed low and worshiped it.
They traded their God
for a grass-chewing idol.*

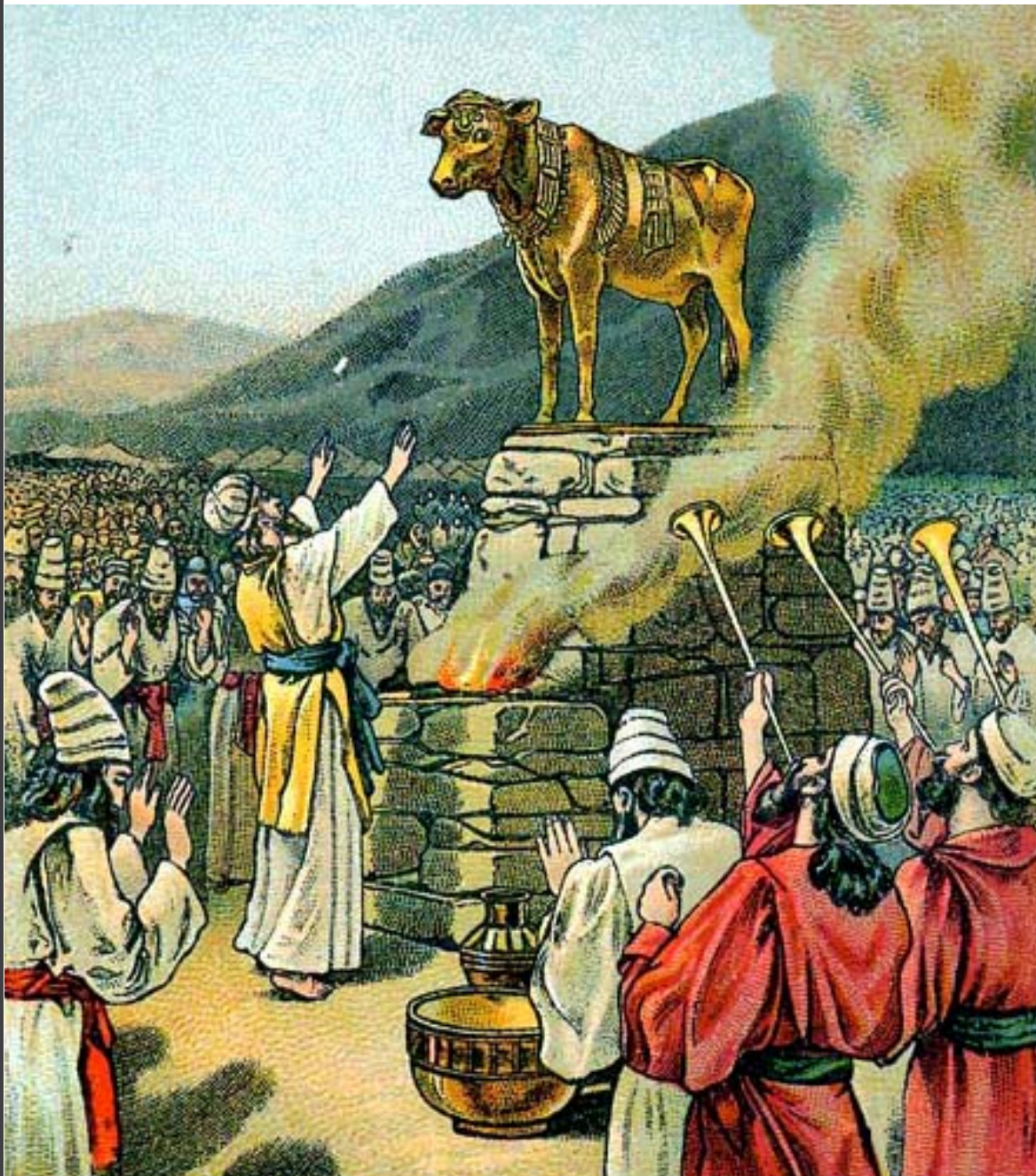
*They forgot their God, their savior,
the One who gave signs in Egypt,
marvels in the land of Pharaoh,
and terror at the Red Sea,
the One who would destroy them,
had not Moses, God's chosen one,
stood alone before him,
deflecting the divine wrath.*

PSALM 106:19-20, 21-22, 23

[ICEL trans.]

Reflection

This community lament psalm reviews Israel's national history, the Exodus-Conquest, with the focus on the rebellious spirit of the Chosen People, i.e., their worship of the golden calf at Sinai: "They traded their God for a grass-chewing idol. They forgot God, their savior, the One who gave signs in Egypt, marvels in the land of Pharaoh." Despite their blatant disregard for God, Moses intercedes for the people, and they are saved once again. Communities of faith even today continue to forget divine acts of saving compassion. This psalm, as well as some people in our lives, remind us that despite human unfaithfulness God's steadfast love endures forever.



[Worshipping the Golden Calf](#) by Providence Lithograph Company
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For Pondering

- Recall an experience you would describe as an example of “God’s steadfast love.” What stands out for you as you remember it today? What do you say to God about it? Is there one word that would describe it? Say that word before you retire for the night. Let it soothe your spirit.
- Who are the people and the creatures of the earth that speak clearly to you of “God’s steadfast love”? Make it a point this week to offer them your gratitude for witnessing such love.
- Describe the love you have for your Creator. Carry that description throughout your day.

Closing Prayer

*Dear God of compassion,
your mercies are with me always—
every moment of my life,
with each breath I take.
Only you can love me
so completely,
so unconditionally,
so profoundly.
If people care for me,
it is only because you care for me.
If any of my words
find their way
into the hearts of others,
it is nothing more than a reflection
of your all-encompassing presence
in my life.*

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