



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

15 March 2020

Today's gospel is the story of the Samaritan woman asking Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, water, and meal – offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

✠GATHERING✠

OPENING HYMN

334 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
 3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
 bod - y of our Lord.
 riv - er, you the sea.

Living Water of salvation, be the fountain of each soul;
 springing up in new creation, flow in us and make us whole,
 flow in us and make us whole.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P. Trusting in God, Who brings us out of death into life, we gather in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C. Amen.
- P. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God Who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P. Gracious God,
- C. I confess that I am held captive by sin and cannot free myself. I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart, I have not loved my neighbor as myself. I pray for forgiveness I cannot earn and renewal I do not merit, given only through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- P. Almighty God looks upon you with mercy, and through Baptism has joined you to the saving death of Jesus Christ so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, you too might walk in newness of life. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C. Amen.

GREETING

- P. The endless grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the rich mercy of God and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C. And also with you.

THE KYRIE

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P. Eternal Lord, Your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son. Help us to hear Your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of Your redeeming love; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C. Amen

† WORD †

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

Today's reading is one of several that tell of experiences during the wilderness wandering. In this case, the people complain because they have a legitimate need, and God responds by providing for them. The doubt-filled question – "Is the Lord among us or not?" – received a very positive answer.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did You bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 95

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Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through Whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves His love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by His blood, will we be saved through Him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by His life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*All together*)



Lord, you are truly the Savior | of the world;

Give me this living water that I may never | thirst again. (*John 4:42, 15*)

HOLY GOSPEL: St. John 4:5-42

In the culture of Jesus' time, Jews tended to avoid dealings with Samaritans, and men did not converse with women in public. Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

C. (spoken) Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by His journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and Who it is that is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do You get that living water? ¹²Are You greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered Him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to Him, "Sir, I see that You are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but You say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship Him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (Who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am He, the one Who is speaking to you."

²⁷Just then His disciples came. They were astonished that He was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do You want?" or, "Why are You speaking with her?" ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹"Come and see a man Who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can He?" ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to Him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³²But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought Him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him Who sent Me and to complete His work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The

reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in Him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of His word. ⁴²They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. *(spoken)* Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (alt tune)* #497 (grn)

- 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down Your head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, So weary, worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place, And He has made me glad.
- 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one; Stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, And now I live in Him.
- 3 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
Look unto Me, your morn shall rise, And all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found In Him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk Till trav'ling days are done.

APOSTLES' CREED

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SHARING THE PEACE

✠ PRAYER ✠

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *Create in me...*

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. God our provider,

C. You have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these Your gifts, which we receive from Your bounty. Strengthen us to use Your gifts wisely, that we may be a blessing to others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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✠ SENDING ✠

How to reach us:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance : March 8, 49

February 26, 2020: General: \$405.00 Lent Offering
March 1, 2020: General: \$3,207.75 (\$313.25 received through electronic giving)
March 4, 2020: General: \$309.00 Lent Offering
March 8, 2020: General: \$3,842.13 (\$915.00 received through electronic giving), Includes: \$1,625.13 from Hemnes Lutheran Church.



Bea Heise Merv Anderson
Emily Morton Dick Anderson
Angie Denelsbeck Anderson
Shirley Gabbert Lynette Christie

Lenten Worship Schedule

5:30 pm Hemnes – Worship
6:00 pm Bethel - dinner by Luther League families
7:00 pm, Bethel – Worship

**Wednesday night's menu
Pizza**

THIS WEEK (March 15th – March 21st)

Sun 10:00 am Bethel Worship Service
 1:00 pm – 4:00 1st Communion
Mon 7:30 pm Boards and Council
Wed 5:00 pm Hemnes Worship
 6:00 pm Lenten Supper
 7:00 pm Bethel Worship

NEXT WEEK (March 22nd – March 29th)

Sun 8:30 am Hemnes Worship
 9:00 am Sunday School
 10:00 am Bethel Worship Service
 1:30 am – 3:00 Confirmation
Mon 10:15 am Spiritual Reflections
Wed 5:00 pm Hemnes Worship
 6:00 pm Lenten Supper
 7:00 pm Bethel Worship
Thur 10:15 am Sylvan Worship
 2:30 pm Minneota Manor

Focus on the CANS not the CAN'TS
The March Food Drive Campaign

We at Bethel want to encourage everyone to pray for those suffering from hunger and contribute to help relieve hunger in our community this month.

Each week Bethel will emphasize special food shelf needs.

March 1st

Breakfast Items

March 8th

pasta and sauces

March 15th

Healthy snacks, canned fruits, and vegetables

March 22nd

Proteins- canned tuna, beans and meat

March 29th

Personal Care or paper products &
Cash offering during worship for Canby food shelf

All donations remain in Yellow Medicine County and all cash donations are matched by Minnesota Food Share.