

Third Sunday in Lent - March 12, 2023

LOVE GOD ♦ LIVE THE WORD ♦ SERVE OTHERS ♦ SHARE CHRIST



The story from Exodus for today points to humanity's perpetual lack of faith as the Israelites complain about a lack of water in the wilderness. God commanded Moses to strike a rock and water gushed forth, filling all Israel's needs for refreshment and life. In the Gospel, a woman comes to faith in Jesus when he asks her for a drink during an exchange at Jacob's well. She soon discovers Living Water in him.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

PASTOR DAVE HANSEN (912) 826-2711

- ♦ You are here by God's calling and we extend Christ's hospitality to you this day.
- ♦ In worship, we hear God's Word, partake in the Lord's Supper, and return our thanks in prayer and praise.
- ♦ If you receive the Lord's Supper in your home congregation, you are welcome to receive it here.
- ♦ Restrooms and a nursery are located in the backside hallway. Look for the horseshoe cross.
- ♦ Please fill out a visitor card so we can keep in touch. The Lord give you strength for daily living.

LBW - DIVINE SERVICE ONE

▼ = SIT ▲ = STAND

MUSICIAN: KAREN HALL

▼ MUSICAL PRELUDE / PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

▲ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION *(Spoken, adptd. from LBW, p.193)*

In the name of the Father, and of the (+)Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may attend to your Word, confess our sins, receive forgiveness, and grow in the fulness of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. **Amen**

Almighty God, merciful Father:

I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment.

But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy.

For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being: forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, 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. **Amen**

▲ HYMN "GUIDE ME EVER GREAT REDEEMER" LBW #343

▲ KYRIE *(Sung)*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all... **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Spoken)*

Let us pray. Holy One, you are the fountain of living water. **Stir within us a renewed sense of the gift of your mercy, given through your grace in the waters of baptism. Give us this living water always; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

▼ FIRST READING - Exodus 17:1-7 *(Pew Bible, p. 69)*

▼ SECOND READING - Romans 5:1-8 *(Pew Bible, p. 1119)*

▼ KCJAM CHOIR / CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

▲ GOSPEL VERSE *(Sung)*

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

▲ GOSPEL READING & RESPONSES - John 4:5-26 *(Sung, Pew Bible, p. 1056)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

▼ SERMON

▲ HYMN OF THE DAY - "ROCK OF AGES" LBW # 327

▲ APOSTLES' CREED *(Spoken)*

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

▲ NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

▲ PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(Spoken)*

▼ CHOIR ANTHEM - "BE STILL"

▲ OFFERTORY *(Sung; LBW 502, st. 1)*

**Thee will I love, my strength, my tow'r; Thee will I love, my joy, my crown!
Thee will I love with all my pow'r, In all thy works, and thee, alone;
With true devotion willingly, My life I offer now to thee.**

▲ OFFERING PRAYER *(Spoken)*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. **Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

▲ GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Spoken)*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
It is indeed right and salutary... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

▲ SANCTUS *(Sung)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

▲ WORDS OF INSTITUTION & THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken)*

▲ AGNUS DEI *(Sung)*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

▼ DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

▲ POST-COMMUNION HYMN *(Sung)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

▲ POST-COMMUNION DISMISSAL *(Spoken)*

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the (+)Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always. **Amen**

▲ SENDING HYMN - "SAVIOR, AGAIN TO YOUR DEAR NAME" LBW #262

▲ DISMISSAL (*Spoken*)

Fight the good fight of faith. **Taking hold of eternal life to which we've been called.** (1 Tim. 6:12)

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional Third Sunday in Lent – March 12, 2023

"Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'" - John 4:13-14-

One way of looking at Biblical salvation is that through Christ we regain access to Eden. It is precisely this restoration to which Jesus alludes in His comment to the Samaritan woman about "a spring of water welling up to eternal life." To see this point, recall that a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden (Gen. 2:10a). This means that Eden was on top of a mountain and was fed by a spring of water. In addition, we know that Eden was a temple since Solomon's Temple used the imagery of Eden, such as cherubim guarding the Holy of Holies. So, Eden was a mountain temple fed by a spring of water while Solomon's Temple was an image of Eden. Through participation in this Temple, the goal of a full return to Eden was continually placed before the people. And this goal became explicit in Ezekiel's end-time vision of the New Temple (see Ezek. 40-47) and in St. John's vision the New Jerusalem (see Rev. 21-22). Consistently, Ezekiel says that water flows out of the New Temple, giving life to the earth (Ezek. 47:1-12). And St. John says that the "river of the water of life" flows out from the New Jerusalem "for the healing of the nations" (Rev. 22:1-3). Putting this together, we see that Eden, the New Temple, and the New Jerusalem are mountain temples fed by springs of water. In pointing back to Eden, therefore, Solomon's Temple pointed forward to the New Temple and the New Jerusalem as the goal of salvation. So, we may view salvation as a return to Eden through Christ, and it is precisely this return to which Jesus alludes in His comment about "a spring of water welling up to eternal life." If we consider the water as a reference to the Holy Spirit, Jesus is telling the Samaritan woman that we will become temples of the Holy Spirit, mini Edens within God's New Eden. Consistent with this interpretation, Jesus also tells her that the worship of God will not be restricted to Jerusalem but that people will worship God in spirit and truth (Jn. 4:20-24). How glorious a salvation is this! Through Christ we become temples of the Holy Spirit and thus life-giving springs for the healing of the nations!

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