



Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Third Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2020 - 8:30 a.m.



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks 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, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We may remain seated. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Amen.

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?

Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people.

Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever.

Amen.

Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Give Me Jesus

ELW #770

KYRIE*In peace let us pray to the Lord....*

ELW p.138-139

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD**FIRST READING**

Exodus 17:1-7

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?"

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 95

Sung responsively beginning with the cantor



¹Come, let us sing | to the LORD;
 let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

²**Let us come before God’s presence | with thanksgiving
 and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**

³For you, LORD, | are a great God,
 and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

⁴**In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;
 the heights of the hills are | also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, | for you made it,
 and your hands have molded | the dry land.

⁶**Come, let us worship | and bow down,
 let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.**

⁷For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture and the sheep
 | of God’s hand.
 Oh, that today you would | hear God’s voice!

⁸**“Harden | not your hearts,
 as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah | in the desert.**

⁹There your ancestors | tested me,
 they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.

¹⁰**Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,
 ‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my ways.’**

¹¹Indeed I swore | in my anger,
 ‘They shall never come | to my rest.’”

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-11

¹Since 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.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord, Your God

ELW p.142

We stand for the hearing of the gospel.



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL

John 4: 5-42

The Holy Gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵[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.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty (verses 1-4)* ELW #777
We stand for the hymn of the day

PRAYERS

Response to the petitions: **your mercy is great.**

We will be seated for the prayers

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

All may greet each other with a sign of peace.

MEAL

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERING SONG*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

ELW #186

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy and generous host, you set a table where we feast as friends.
Prepare us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that
all people may know your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al-so 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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus
Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for
you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the
forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation
for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in
your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will
be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive
us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us no
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God's love is poured out in Christ for you. Open yourselves to receive it.

COMMUNION HYMN*Lamb of God*

ELW p.146

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.**SENDING****BLESSING**

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation.

Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, ✠ bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace.

Amen.**SENDING HYMN***Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

ELW #843

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

The radio broadcast this morning is given in loving memory of Frank Banwart's birthday, March 16, from his wife Darlene and family.

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Weekly Announcement sheets are on the tables in the narthex.

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