

GOD is spirit, and those who
worship him must **WORSHIP** in
SPIRIT and **TRUTH.**

John 4:24, NRSV



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Third Sunday in Lent

Holy Communion

8:00 & 10:30 AM

ELW Setting 5

PASTOR: THE REVEREND FARON H. JOHNSON

AUTHORIZED LAY MINISTER: MR. DAVID FINNEY

MINISTER OF MUSIC: MICHAEL BUSIJA

Church: 479-4110; Fax: 479-2994

www.stdavidslutheran.org



Allegheny Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

To: Congregations of the Allegheny Synod, ELCA
From: Bishop Michael Rhyne
Re: Pastoral Message concerning the Coronavirus

Dear Friends,

May God's grace and peace be with you. As you know we continually have stories in the news about the spread of the Covid-19 strain of the Coronavirus. We want to keep in prayer all the places in the world where this virus has spread and pray for all those internationally and in our own country who are working to contain this virus. We continue to monitor this situation and if there is information is coming from our national church to share with you, we will pass this along.

I want to recognize that when we hear about these viruses that seem to be spreading in different parts of the world, it can cause us to worry. We worry about the safety of our friends and family and we want to know that our communities are safe. This is a natural reaction that comes out of the love we have for those who are dear to us. But we want to be careful not to let fear and anxiety overwhelm us.

While we pray for those who have been affected by this virus and for the families of those who have died, we should recognize that at the present time we have had few cases of this virus in the United States. There have been some deaths in Washington state, and some cases of Covid-19 being identified in other parts of the country. Our state and national health systems are responding to this crisis.

As we hear about this virus in so many places it has caused people to wonder if we should be taking precautions in our churches. At this time, there have been no directives from the Center for Disease Control, or our state Health Department to limit gatherings or alter our practice.

Until we hear more from the CDC and our state and national leaders, the best advice is to follow those same reasonable practices we all do in our churches for cold and flu season. It is good advice to wash our hands regularly and to make sure we cover our mouths if we sneeze or cough. Most of our congregations have hand sanitizer readily available this time of year. I encourage you to use it. These are sensible things which we are going to do anyway.

If you are sick, stay home and recover. Your brothers and sisters in Christ will appreciate you allowing yourself to get well and not bringing germs into the congregation. If you are worried about catching something during the season, many people wish each other peace rather than shaking hands during the 'passing of the peace'. This is perfectly acceptable. The most important thing for us is to avoid the temptation to give into fear. Fear leads us to make bad decisions. We need to be vigilant and be attentive, but we don't need to do things because we are afraid. I know that the constant news coverage of this virus could tempt us to think that it is everywhere. That is just not the truth at this point.

Please know that Christ is with you. Christ is leading us as God's people here in the heart of Pennsylvania. Working together we will all do the best we can to look out for and take care of each other. As we continue on this Lenten journey, I say to you, Be not afraid. But also, I invite you to hold in your prayer those who are struggling with this virus in many parts of the world, and to pray for all people who deal with this illness.

Also, it is good to stay informed. The best resource we have in this country for information about this virus is the Center for Disease Control. They have a wonderful website that gives lots of information and smart practices for organizations as we move forward. Please take a look at it for your own information.

CDC Website: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html?fbclid=IwAR3N0GTmom0pz8NgNNeZAOFlcTS-oFjgg68_woG_HeFZ9tqtgGj0eKCGEx8

May God continue to bless and keep you in his grace,

In Christ

+Bishop Michael Rhyne

Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the friendship sheet that is located in the booklet at the end of each pew, near the center aisle. These sheets will be collected after the service.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to receive the elements at the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians. Persons, who may not wish to receive the bread and wine of the communion, are still welcome to come to the table to receive a blessing. To do so please fold your hands and bow your head.

Prayer Requests may be made by placing the request in the small wooden box at the rear, near the doors through which you entered. The acolyte will collect the requests and they will be included during the prayers of the congregation.

For your comfort there is a restroom, equipped with a changing table and supplies and a water fountain located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock, and the water fountain is to the right at the beginning of the hallway.

Devotional – The worship folder you are holding is also a weekly devotional booklet. The prayers and Scripture readings are appropriate for use at any time during the week. The liturgy itself is a Scripturally based order for daily prayer and devotion with Scriptural references noted where they apply. Even the hymns are appropriate tools for prayer and praise. Finally, there is a daily lectionary of Scripture readings for the rest of the week on the last printed page.

INTRODUCTION

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.

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

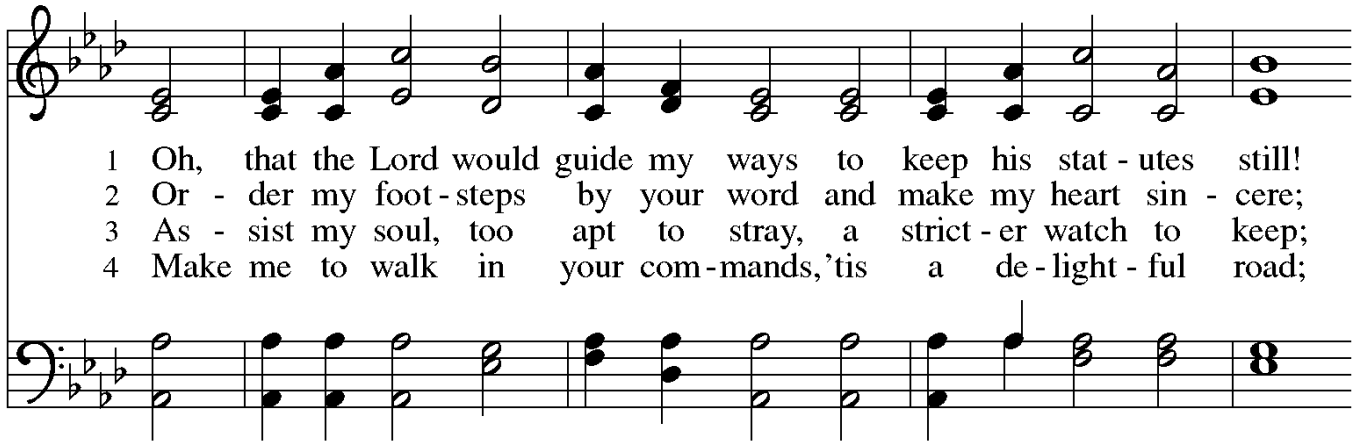
God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, 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,

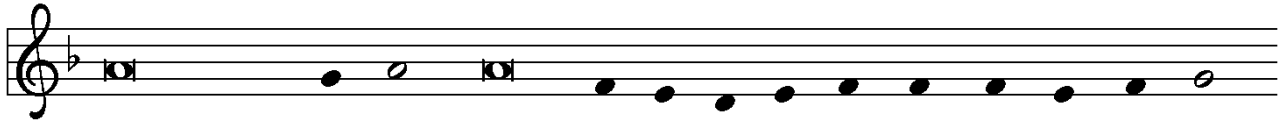


and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.





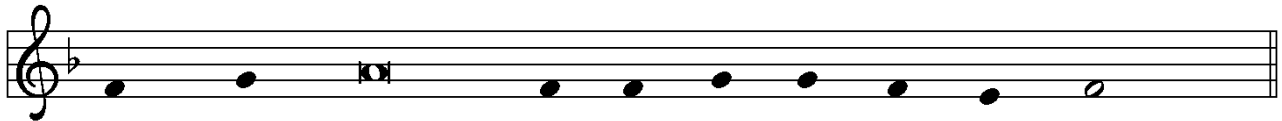
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . .

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

The assembly is seated.

WORD WITH CHILDREN

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

A reading from Exodus the 17th chapter.

{Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the LORD among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.}

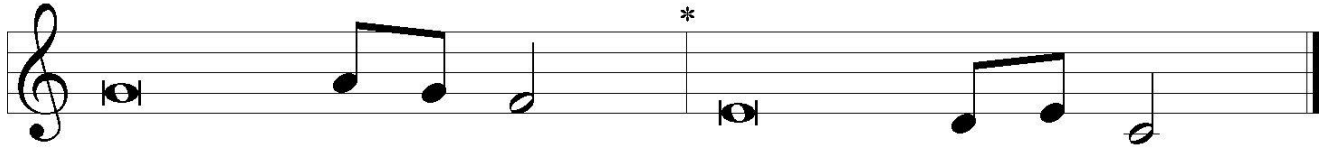
¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with 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 (sung responsively)

Psalm Tone 1



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

A reading from Romans the 5th chapter.

{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.}

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

LENTEN VERSE



GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

The holy gospel according to John the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

{Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.}

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 the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

HOMILY

Silence for reflection may follow.

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty



- 1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
- 2 "Come to me, all trav-'lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
- 3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh - ment in this place.
- 4 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.



If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."
Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."
Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."
Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

Refrain



Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;
I would be your trusted friend.
Come and seek the gift I offer,
come, your open hands extend." <i>Refrain</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;
lonely ways no longer roam.
Come and take the gift I offer,
let me make in you my home." <i>Refrain</i> |
|--|---|

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: BEACH SPRING, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

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Together we confess our faith:

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

God of living water, send your church beyond boundaries to proclaim your grace. May its witness be a source of refreshment for thirsty souls. Strengthen our voices, that all people can know and believe that Jesus is truly the savior of the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of living water, protect from pollution or misuse all rivers, lakes, oceans, and streams (*local water sources may be named*). Bless the work of those who dig wells and those who advocate for access to clean water, that all people and animals have enough to drink. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of living water, open the hearts of leaders and authorities, that they hear the cries of the suffering and act with compassion toward them. Bring peace to disputed lands and bring reconciliation to people divided by race, culture, or nationality. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of living water, mend the hearts of those who grieve broken relationships, whether by conflict, abuse, divorce, or death. Draw near to all who are ill (*especially*). Assure those questioning your presence in the midst of doubt or suffering. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of living water, renew us in the promises of baptism. Join us together in worship, fellowship, and sharing your good news. Embolden us to serve others and to work for justice and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of living water, we thank you for those who endured suffering and who now boast in the glory of God (*especially*). Pour your Holy Spirit into our hearts and give us peace as we live in the hope of our salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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 the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you.

Peace be with you.

Please be seated after the Peace is shared.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY HYMN

Come to the Table



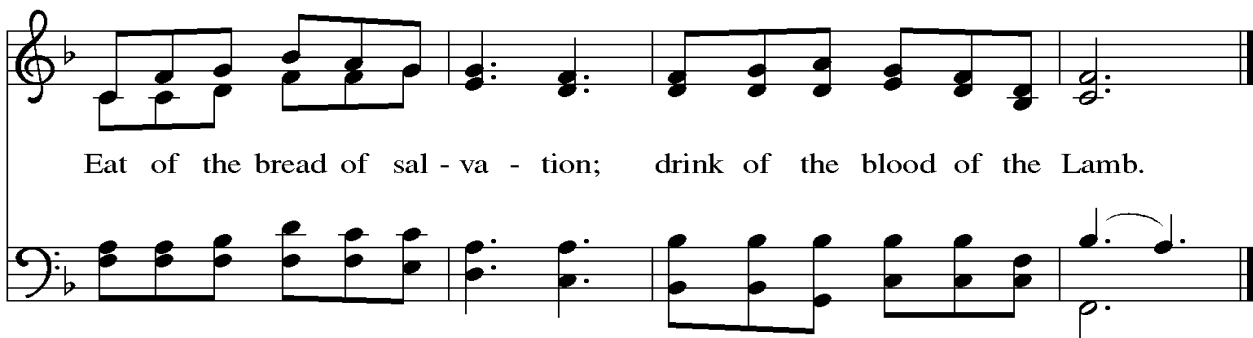
Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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OFFERTORY RESPONSE

The assembly stands.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful
Offering Song



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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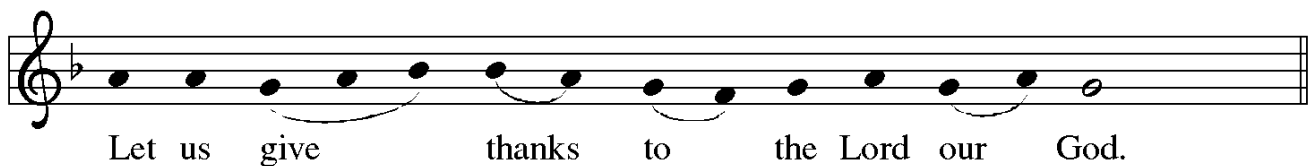
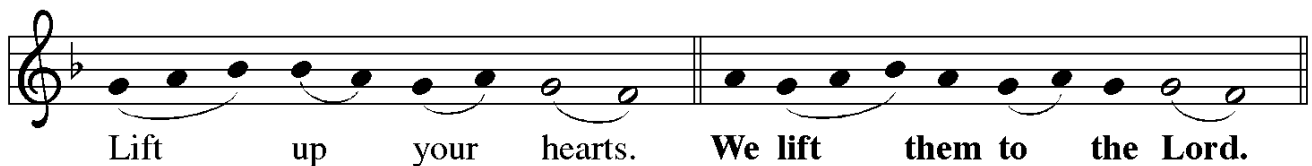
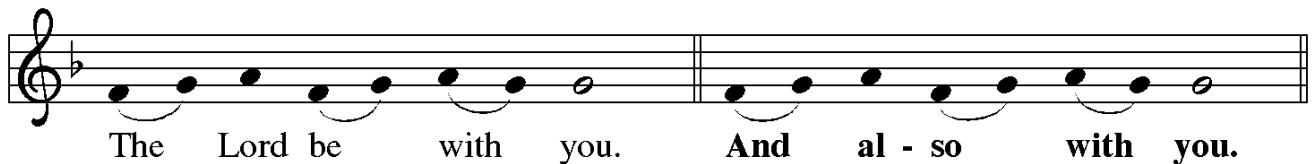
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, 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, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE

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.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With name/s and your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
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 not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

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. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

The assembly is seated.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians.

This morning we Commune by **intinction**. The congregation will proceed down the center aisle and receive the host from the pastor. Then, those seated on the right will go right and those seated on the left will go left, receive the chalice from one of the Communion assistants by dipping the host into the chalice. Then everyone returns by the side aisles.

COMMUNION HYMN

One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,



Refrain

wom - an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ

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The assembly stands.

After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

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 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care:

As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,
assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament
with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*.

In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

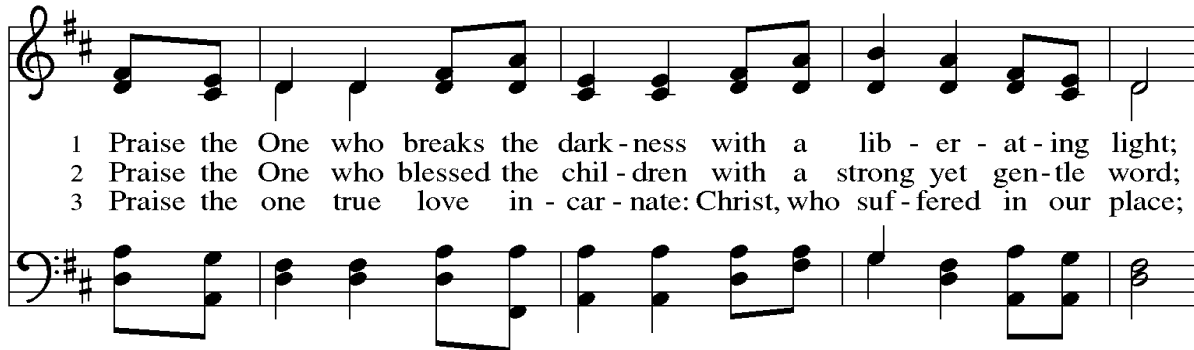
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

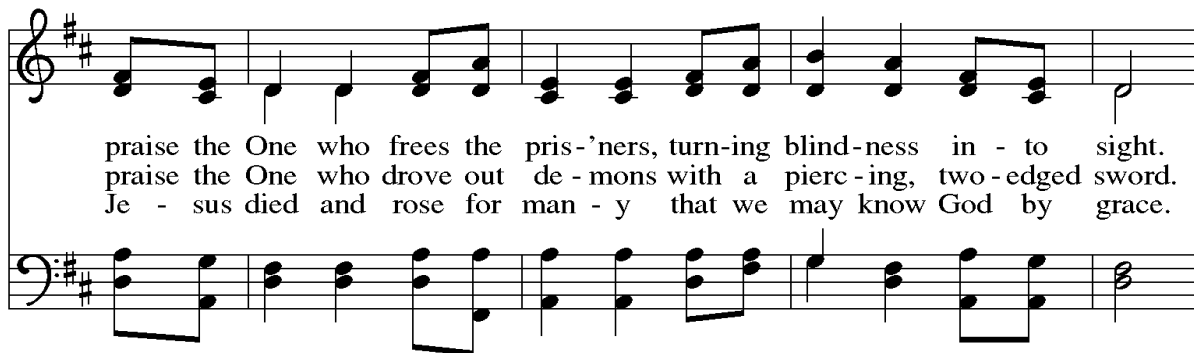
QUIET MEDITATION

SENDING HYMN

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



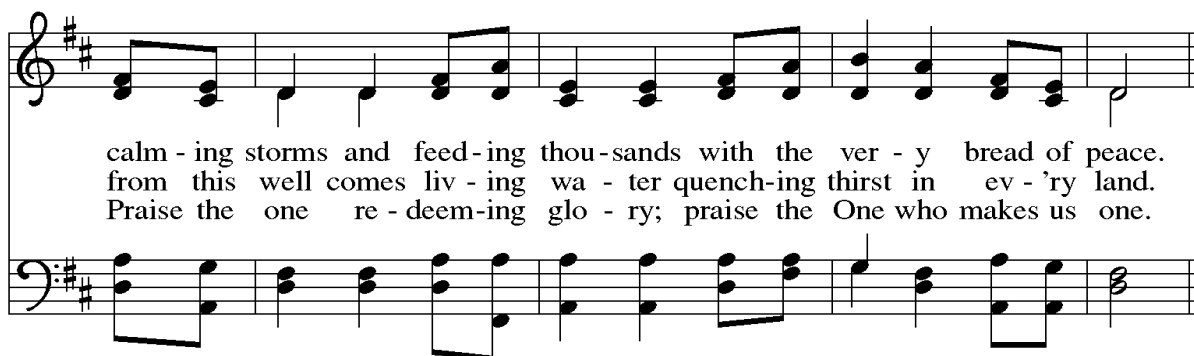
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

GOSPEL MESSAGE

March 15, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Thirsty for Living Water

It was about noon when Jesus, “tired out by his journey,” sat down at Jacob’s well and said plainly to the Samaritan woman who had come to draw water, “Give me a drink” (John 4:6-7).

The story begins matter-of-factly. It’s harmless enough, right? The sun burns hot, the traveler is thirsty, and there’s a well to which the woman has come for her own household’s needs. John tells us that Jesus’ disciples were in the nearby town buying food, which highlights that Jesus and the woman were alone at the well. Still, simple as it may seem, the exchange between this woman and Jesus pleads for a closer look. Theirs is more than an encounter akin to a modern-day outdoor adventure when the water bottle is empty and we have miles to journey before arriving somewhere to refill it.

Today’s story follows close on the heels of Nicodemus seeking out Jesus under cover of darkness. Like Nicodemus, this woman has questions. She wonders about Jesus’ boldness: he approaches her and speaks to her, violating the cultural norms of the day which put Jewish people and Samaritans at odds with each other. She also verbally disputes with him when Jesus offers a cryptic statement about “living water” (John 4:10).

So, is it the woman’s quick answers and easy banter that pull us into this story? Or is it some developing awareness of the barriers that sometimes prevent us from encountering the one who offers this “spring of water gushing up to eternal life” (John 4:14)?

The flowing stream of acceptance embodied in Jesus quenched the woman’s thirst for being known, seen, and valued. In turn, her effusive joy demonstrates the power of living water for all who long for acceptance. Receiving this story, may we think of the parched places in our communities, our churches, even our own lives, that are thirsting for living water.

Daily Readings for the Week March 15-21

Sunday:	Third Sunday in Lent Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42
Monday:	Psalm 81 Genesis 24:1-27 2 John 1-13
Tuesday:	Psalm 81 Genesis 29:1-14 1 Corinthians 10:1-4
Wednesday:	Psalm 81 Jeremiah 2:4-13 John 7:14-31, 37-39
Thursday:	Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:10-21 Ephesians 4:25-32
Friday:	Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:22-31 Ephesians 5:1-9
Saturday:	Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:32-34 John 1:1-9

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