

Third Sunday of Lent

March 12, 2023

WELCOME

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of respect, reciprocity and truth, we honour and acknowledge that we gather as people who live and work and pray on traditional and ancestral land of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We give recognition to the Blackfoot people past, present, and future, and to the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

COMMUNITY LIFE

A new three-week opportunity for Reading and Sharing with Pastor Tom starts today at 11 am in the Upper Fireside Room.

All men are invited to Smitty's South each Saturday at 10 am for coffee and fellowship.

As we gather . . . 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. Our default is to turn away from God to things that keep us bound. God's default is to give us all things: manna, quail, water, forgiveness, life; and all as the free gift of God through Christ. Even in the face of everything that says otherwise— God is faithful! God can be trusted! We are forgiven, nourished, and quenched! Thanks be to God!

Let us take a moment to open our hearts and minds for worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the leader begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

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

Gracious and merciful God,

We confess to you the truth of our broken lives.

We have not trusted your promises or walked in your ways.

We have hoarded and squandered the gifts of your creation.

We have failed to welcome the stranger and the outcast, and to make room at the table for the homeless and the hungry.

We have neither worked to release the oppressed nor admitted our own captivities.

Forgive our sin, heal our lives, and set us free that we might live with your whole creation in the justice and joy of your promised future.

God, who is merciful and kind, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
hears the cries of all who plead for mercy and, in these last days,
has sent Christ Jesus to announce the good news of forgiveness and release
to all who are bound by guilt or broken by shame,
that they might praise God and serve the world with glad and generous hearts.

For freedom Christ has set us free.

Thanks be to God!

GATHERING HYMN "Come and Gather" – (refrain and verses 2 & 3)

Refrain



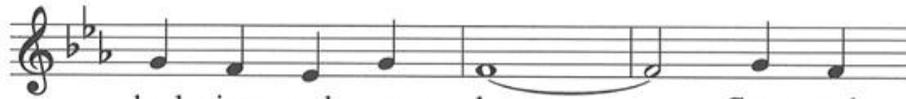
Come and gath-er be - neath the tree of life.



Come and gath-er be - neath the tree of



life— root of wis-dom, branch of peace, fruit of



heal - ing and re - lease. Come and



gath-er be - neath the tree of life.

Verses



Flow - ing from this tree of grace and
Come and drink the wa - ters of sal -



pas - sion, Oh how sweet the taste, how
va - tion, come and die to sin, rise



deep and rich the well-spring of your love.
up to life with - in the Reign of God.

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.

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, mer-cy on us all. **A** 1. For the
A 2. For your

reign of God, and for peace through-out the
peo - ple here who have come to give you

world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
thanks, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the

Lord:
Lord: **C** Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, and de-

Lord, have mer - cy, mer-cy on us all.

fend us, O God: **C** A - men.

"Come and Gather" refrain (reprise as in accompaniment version)

Refrain

Come and gath-er be - neath the tree of life.

Come and gath-er be - neath the tree of

life— root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of

heal - ing and re - lease. Come and

gath - er be - neath the tree of life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you!

Let us pray. Let us pray. 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**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

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.

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. The 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?" But 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?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The 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. I 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. He 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!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – "Return to God" (from NTF instead of Tree of Life)

Congregation:

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the
Source of grace and mer - cy; Come seek the ten - der
faith - ful - ness of God.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the acclamation. The second staff contains the second line. The third staff contains the third line and ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Please remain standing for the reading of the gospel. Today's message comes to us from Rev. Tim Wray who serves Lutheran Church of the Master in Airdrie, AB.

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

The holy gospel according to John.

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. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The 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.) Jesus 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." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but 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." The 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."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But 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. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just 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?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do 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. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They 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.

SERMON

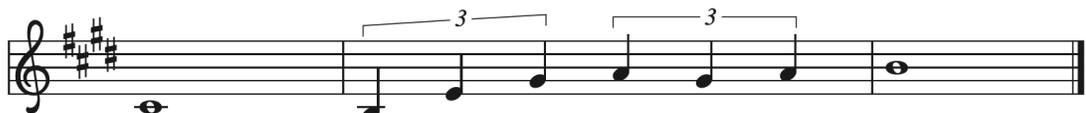
HYMN "Come to the Water of Life" ACS 955



1 All who are thirst-y for mer - cy, all who are thirst-y for
2 All who are thirst-y for heal - ing, all who are thirst-y for
3 All who are thirst-y for beau - ty, all who are thirst-y for
4 All who are thirst-y for jus - tice, all who are thirst-y for



love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,
touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,
truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,
peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,



come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

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.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The offering is brought forward by the usher

Let us pray. Merciful God, everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for your church. Bless partnerships with other Christians and inter-religious dialogue. Guide the daily work of denominational and congregational leaders. Bless ecumenical efforts towards justice and mercy in our community that all experience your life-giving love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the universe. All creation teems with life, from the depths of the earth and seas to the skies above. Fill us with awe and reverence for the diversity and preservation of life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. Bring peace to all places of conflict. Form us into your beloved community where diversity of gender, race, language, ability, and ethnic origin is celebrated and affirmed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with all who are lonely, and give courage to all who are afraid. Comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness Myrtle, Debi, Marion, Arne, Thelma, Pastor Kathy and Darcy, Mildred, Eva, Dave, Tiffany, Blair, Corrie, Pastor Dick & Jan, Helene, Patrick, Jack & Shirley, Eowen, Grace, Margaret, Clayton, Alan, Nancy, Rosemary, Shellene, Sheila, Cliff, Cherylee, Alice and Doreen, and those we name silently now (silence). Give them your living water always. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, especially Janice Vucurevich and Cliff & Pat Weir. Also for the Good Shepherd Lutheran Women ministry. Nurture their faith and pour your love into their hearts. Inspire our community by their testimony to God's grace in their lives. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the lives of all your saints. Their hope in you sustained lives of faith and service. Encourage us with the hope they shared in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever, Amen.**

BLESSING

God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (v 1&3) ELW 807



Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God! We will!

COPYRIGHT PERMISSION

1. "Come and Gather" "Kyrie" and Confession & Forgiveness from Tree of Life: Words & Music by Marty Haugen. GIA Publications. Reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-712444.- Copyright Cleared Music for Churches.
2. "Return to God" from Now the Feast: Musical setting by Marty Haugen, GIA Publications. Reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-712444.
3. "Come to the Water of Life" Text & Music: Ray Makeever; © 1999 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-712444.
4. "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Public Domain: Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.; Music: J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813.
5. Liturgy from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS104021

Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from
ONE LICENSE, License #A-712444, and CCLI Licence #547407. All rights reserved.