

**Third Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2020**



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 — wherever we are — offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

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.**

Hymn of the Day

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Listen and sing along [here](#).

Gospel: John 4:5-42

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

Read the complete text [here](#).

Reflection on the Text

Think about those people you see on the street corner, or in line at the grocery store, trying to count out change to finish paying for their groceries, or the images of the refugees at the border holding small, dirty children. Think about others you have seen who are alone, not welcome in society, and struggling day by day just to get by. Most likely, the woman at the well would fit in this list.

She is a Samaritan, someone that a good Jew like Jesus should not even be near, much less talk to. She comes to the well in the heat of the day when no one else would be there because she would not be welcome. She likely has no friends, no status, no money. Even she is amazed that Jesus is talking to her. This Jewish Rabbi, waiting by the well, talks to her! And then, he says these amazing things about her that he really should not have known! Nothing about this makes sense.

After Jesus tells her about herself, and the coming kingdom of God, she goes back into the city and proclaims him as the Messiah. This Samaritan woman with a sketchy background becomes the preacher to the people of the town – and they believe! They all come out to hear Jesus, and after two days, many believe. They believe that he is the Messiah – the chosen one – all because this woman met him at the well.

Jesus broke many rules that day – speaking with a woman, speaking with a Samaritan, sending a woman to preach, and then staying in a Samaritan town for two days. We, too, need to break the rules of society sometimes in order to share the good news. We need to hear it from unlikely sources and share it with strangers.

In these days and times, we need to reach out to (but not touch!) those in need and let them know that God is real, that Jesus died for them, and that we as followers of Jesus are willing to help. We know what God has done, is doing, and has promised yet to do for his children and we are called to share that with others – in word and in deed. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

We profess our faith with the whole church in all times and places:

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.

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. Today we pray especially for those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic:

A brief silence.

For the vulnerable and the immune-compromised; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For healthcare workers; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For custodians and cleaners; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who feel isolated; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who are sick; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who are anxious or worried; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For children whom school keeps fed and safe; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those with little access to healthcare; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

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.

Closing Hymn

Healer of our Every Ill

Listen and sing along [here](#).

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Today's gospel reflection was written by Pastor Ray Sipe.

Prayers for those affected by the pandemic were adapted from prayers prepared by the The Episcopal Diocese of Texas.