

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
March 15, 2020
Third Sunday in Lent



Vicar Mary Anne Parker
Mike Tessman, Worship Assistant
Randy Witte, Lay Reade
Rita Jordan, Organist

408 S. Davidson Street | Karnes City, TX 78118
Office (830) 780-2251 Vicar Mary Anne (361) 571-2092
www.StPaulsLutheranKC.org
www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranKarnesCity

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

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 SONG

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

ELW 767

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together, **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**

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.

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?"

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 95

R *Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.*

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 above 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. R**

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 generation, 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.'" **R**

SECOND READING **Romans 5:1-11**

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL John 4:5-42

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.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

ELW 608

CONFESSION OF FAITH

United in Christ, let us confess the faith we hold in common.

**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.

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. 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. We ask for the rainfall that we so desperately need. 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. Guide them to realistic and rational action in their efforts to educate and protect citizens from the myriad illnesses that are prevalent in our world. 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 Patricia, Suzanne, Diane, Shane, Norma, Robert, Ada, Linda, Jack, Evelyn, Raymond, Steve, Frances, Rita, SuzAnn, Khloe, Adrienne, Marie, Elfren, Jimmy, Moma, Johnny, Don, Meredene, Amber, Jerry, Enedina, Cody, and Norma. 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.**

God of living water, we thank you for those who endured suffering and who now boast in the glory of God. 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.**

GREETING OF PEACE

The Lord Jesus prayed for the unity of his disciples.
We look for the day when the church will shine forth
in unity at his holy supper.
The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING SONG

Come to the Table

ELW 481

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

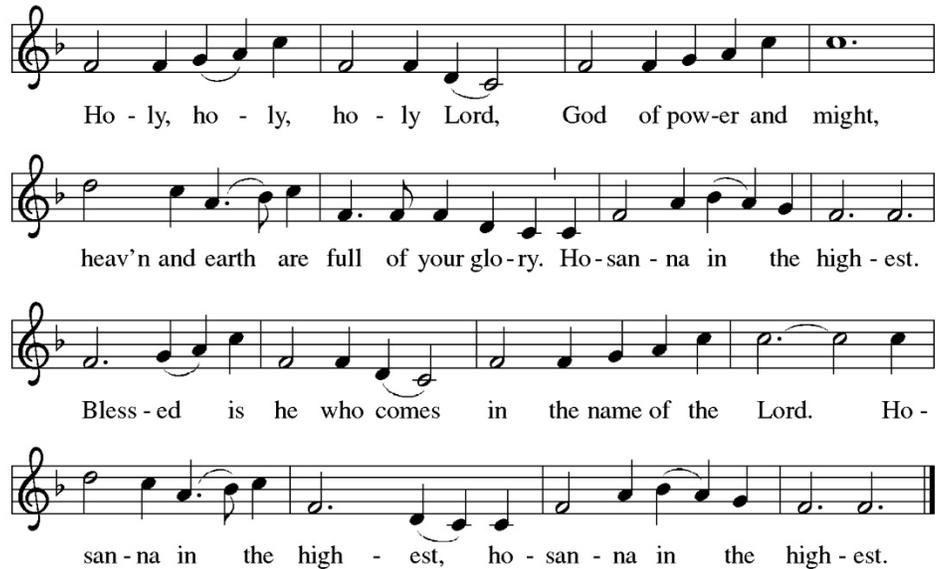
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give 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.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

The assembly is seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world.

Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, living God, for the body and blood of your Son, which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike. As Christ has loved us in this feast, so send us to love Christ in our neighbors. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

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 SONG

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness ELW 843

DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow ELW 884

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

For Prayerful Consideration

Ill, Injured or Otherwise Struggling: Patricia Coffee, Suzanne Dietzel, Diane Dziuk, Shane Edens, Norma Foreman, Robert Fudge, Ada Garza, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Evelyn Hoffman, Raymond Jenkins, Steve Kelly, Frances Kempe, Rita Kroll, SuzAnn Kroll, Khloe Martinez, Adrienne Meyer, Marie Meyer, Elfren Moczygemba, Jimmy Moore, Moma Ndeh, Johnny Perez, Don Roberts, Meredene Shockome, Amber Stagg, Jerry Vajdos, Enedina Vasquez, Cody Zaiontz, and Norma Zamzow

For those in the military: Nick Adams, Anthony Alvarez, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Dominic Cruz, Isaac Cruz, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva

Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul's by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul's. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us. **If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance**, please signal an usher.

Announcements

Opportunities to Learn, Worship, Pray, and Serve

This week we will bid farewell to Vicar Mary Anne as she leaves her position here to focus fulltime on her seminary studies. We wish her all the Best! Don't miss her final Lenten Devotion on Thursday!

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Weekly Lenten Worship: Each Thursday

Soup & Sandwiches at 6:00 p.m.

Worship & Reflection at 6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion April 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Worship April 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Celebration & Worship with Holy Communion April 12

9:30 a.m. Breakfast and Egg Hunt

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

by Cameron Wiggins Bellm

**May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.**

**May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.**

**May we who have the luxury of working from home
remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.**

**May we who have the flexibility to care for our children
when their schools close
remember those that have no options.**

**May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those who have no safe place to go.**

**May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.**

**May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.**

**As fear grips our country,
let us choose love during this time when we
cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbor. *Amen.***