

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

THEME: Jesus satisfies what we are missing in life

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

BEING OPEN BY CONFESSING

P: 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 give appropriate praise to your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: We confess together: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you I our thoughts, words, and actions, by what we have done and what we have failed to do. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your loving will and walk in your loving ways, to your praise and glory. Amen.

RECEIVING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen!

OPENING HYMN "Red Book" 135 Majesty

Majesty, worship his majesty,
Unto Jesus be all glory, power and praise,
Majesty, kingdom authority
Flow from his throne, unto His own, who His anthems raise.
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King.
Majesty, worship his majesty,
Unto Jesus be all glory, power and praise,
Majesty, worship his majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all Kings.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray.....

C: God our Father, your Son once welcomed an outcast woman because of her faith. Give us faith like hers, that we also may trust only in your love for us and may accept one another as we have been accepted by you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEARING FROM GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

The Israelites are tested in the Wilderness

All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And 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 grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

New Testament Reading: Romans 5:1-8

God shows His love for us while we are sinners

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Redeemer

By Mark Hayes

Gospel Reading: John 4:5-26

Jesus offers the woman at the well water for eternal life

So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings 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 nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 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 now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 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 is seeking such people 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 (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG "Green Book" 93 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

*Jesus refuge of the weary, Blest redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
Often have your eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.*

*Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see you wounded, bleeding, See your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what your grace has taught us Calms the sinner's deep distress.*

*Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for you;
May our eyes be ever turning To behold your cross anew;
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified.*

SONG "Red Book" 187

Seek Ye First

- 1. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.*

- 2. Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia.*

- 3. Ask, and it shall be given unto you.
Seek, and ye shall find.
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**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 to the dead.
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.**

OFFERING (We give our offerings as a sign of our lives offered to God.)

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray: Merciful Father,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

A CLOSING BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN "Green Book" 448

Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has bought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!