

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

March 12th, 2023

8:30 am & 11:00 am Services

Third Sunday in Lent

Introduction to the Day: 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.

Gathering

Prelude

Nearer, Still Nearer arr. Dan Forrest

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Karen Natterstad

Please stand as you are able.

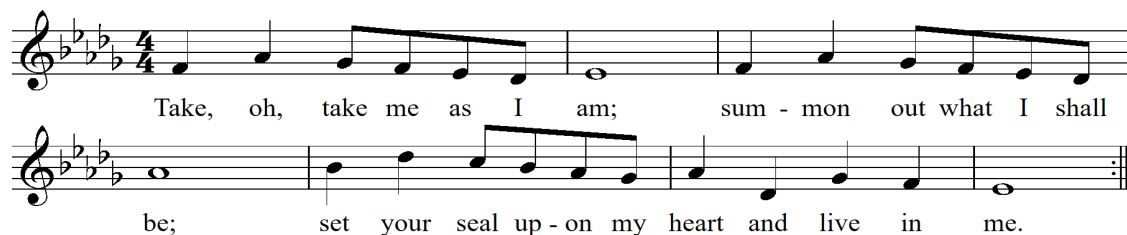
Preparation for Worship

Lord God, in this season of Lent we look forward to our remembrance of Jesus' death and our celebration of his resurrection.

We pray that your Spirit will renew in us today our anticipation for these events and our awareness that Jesus' death and resurrection are a sure source of hope and life. In the power of Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Call to Confession

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



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Confession and Forgiveness with the Kyrie

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. In times of temptation, we forget what you have done for us.

Silence is kept for reflection.



For self-centered living, and for wandering from your resurrection life:

Holy God, have mercy on us.

For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

Holy God, have mercy on us.



For jealousies that divide families and nations and that create strife and warfare:

Holy God, have mercy on us.

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

Holy God, have mercy on us.



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.

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.



Text: Traditional. Music: John R. Paradowski & Barbara Semmann. From Processional Kyrie. Copyright © 2003 Choristers Guild. publisher. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603.

Litany for the 3rd Sunday in Lent

Oh most Holy God, we praise you for sending your son, Jesus
who offers us the living water of eternal life.

He will satisfy us and never turn us away.

Abundant Life can only be found in Him.

He is the never-ending water we are thirsty for.

The well will never run dry.

He puts our shame and sin to death on the cross

and calls us to walk in His light.

Gathering Song

#807 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Greeting

The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin, be
 with you all.

And also with you.

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.

Please be seated.

Word

Psalm

Psalm 95

Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)

Let us read responsively from Psalm 95.

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.

For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

For 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!

"Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.

There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

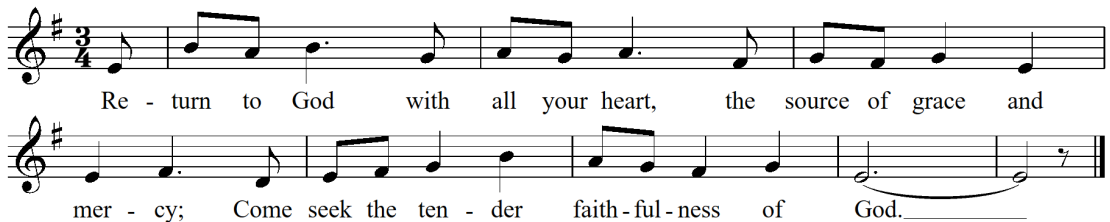
Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'

Indeed, I swore in my anger, 'They shall never come to my rest.'"

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

Return to God with All Your Heart



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Gospel Reading

John 4:5-15

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

The holy gospel according to John, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Pastor Karen Natterstad

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

#611 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

(Prayer Cards will be collected during the Hymn of the Day)

Profession of 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.

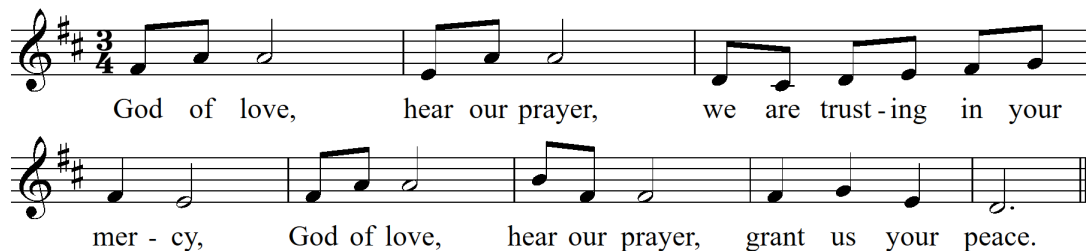
Usher Volunteers gather for Offering Collection at the Welcome Center.

Prayers of Intercession

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

Call to Prayer

God of Love, Hear Our Prayer



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...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.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

Meal

Offering

8:30

Come to the Water arr. Jack Schrader – Senior Choir

11:00

Home by Ola Gjeilo

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory

When Grains of Wheat Fall

1. When grains of wheat fall in the ground, New life with -
 2. With Christ we die; with Christ we live; To Christ our
 in their death is found. When grapes are crushed, there
 ran - somed lives we give. With grate - ful hearts, our
 flows new wine. So from Christ's death flow gifts di - vine.
 gifts in hand, Be - fore the cross of Christ we stand.

Tune: Erhalt Uns, Herr LM. Music: J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543. Text: Arden Mead. Copyright: © 1999 Creative Communications. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, you provide us with every gift of creation, and you quench our thirst with living water. Receive these tokens of your goodness to us. May our lives be bread for the hungry and streams in the wilderness, signs of the abundance of your grace. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

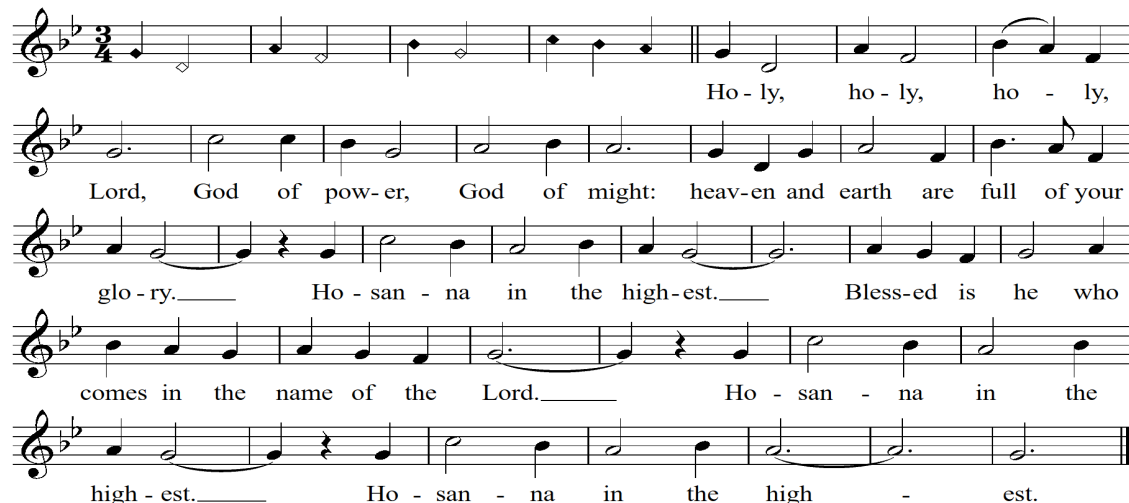
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the

world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendor of
your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for
your mercy and join with saints and angels forever praising your name and join
their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Text: Traditional liturgical text. Music: Marty Haugen, Mass of Creation, Copyright: © 1984 GIA Publ. Inc.
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Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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

**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 us 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.

Invitation to Communion

Return to God with all your heart.
desert.

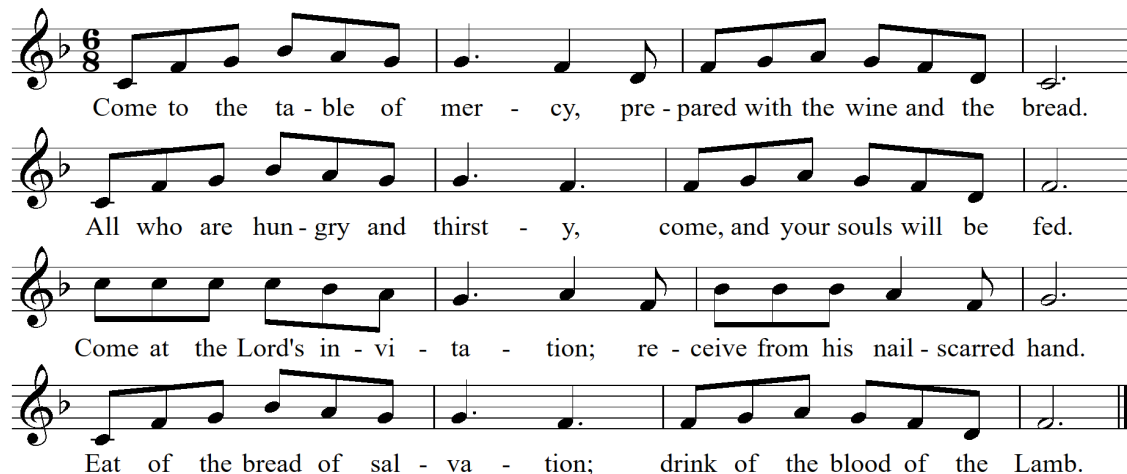
Receive bread for the journey, drink for the

We join in the feast.

Please be seated.

Call to Communion

#481 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.

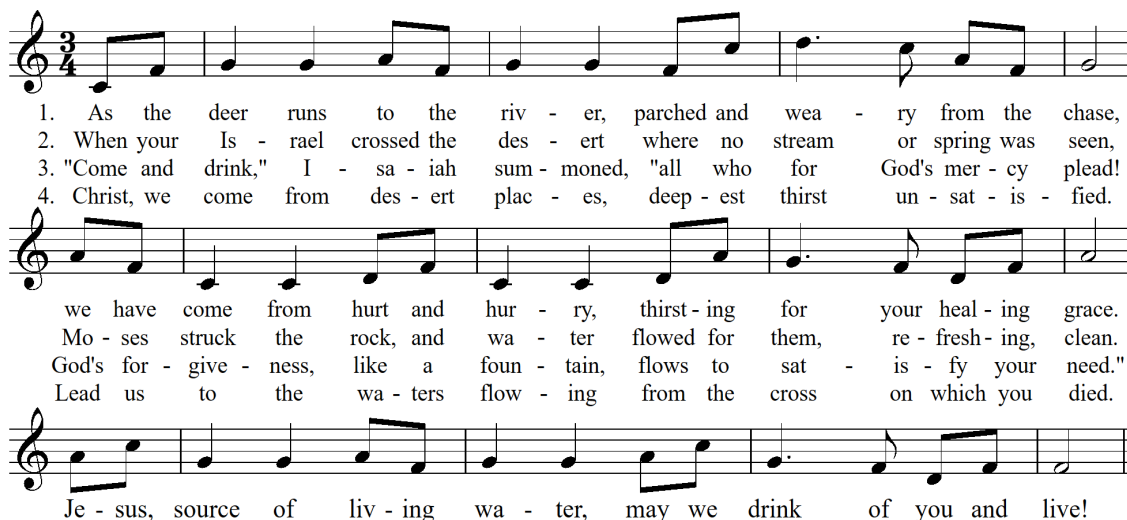
Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.

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

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942. Music: Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956. Tune: Come to the Table, 88 87 87 87. Copyright © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna Music; Juniper Landing Music, admin Word Music. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603.

Communion Hymn

As the Deer Runs to the River



1. As the deer runs to the riv - er, parched and wea - ry from the chase,
2. When your Is - rael crossed the des - ert where no stream or spring was seen,
3. "Come and drink," I - sa - iah sum - moned, "all who for God's mer - cy plead!
4. Christ, we come from des - ert plac - es, deep - est thirst un - sat - is - fied.

we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst - ing for your heal - ing grace.
Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean.
God's for - give - ness, like a foun - tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need."
Lead us to the wa - ters flow - ing from the cross on which you died.

Je - sus, source of liv - ing wa - ter, may we drink of you and live!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr. b. 1923. Copyright © 2002 GIA Publ. Inc. Music: David Hurd, b. 1950. Tune: Julion 87 87 87. Copyright © 1983 GIA Publ. Inc. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603. All rights reserved.

Please stand as you are able.

Communion Response

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his love and grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, as the manna miraculously nourished your wandering children, so, too, this gift of life refreshes us. We do not live by bread alone so teach us to prefer this nourishment. Teach us to hunger for this food. Teach us to follow where the Spirit leads. You are the Lord forevermore.

Amen.

Sending

Blessing for the Lenten Season

The blessing of God's eternal love, the courage to follow the way of the cross, and the guidance of the Spirit in the desert places of our world, be among us. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us both now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

#325 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Dismissal

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Toccata on "Aberystwyth" by Brenda Portman

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7 [not printed]

Psalms 95

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11 [not printed]

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

[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 worshippers 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."

Next Sunday's Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41.

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Tracks 1 and 2
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