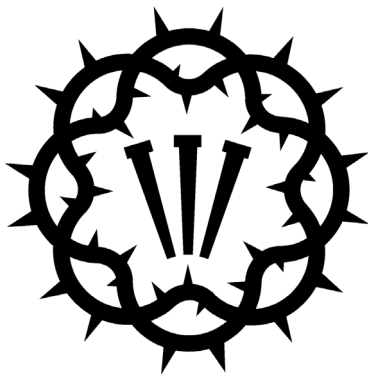


Lent 3

March 8, 2028

Third Sunday in Lent



The story from Exodus for today points to humanity’s perpetual lack of faith as the Israelites complain about a lack of water in the wilderness. God commanded Moses to strike a rock and water gushed forth, filling all Israel’s needs for refreshment and life. In the Gospel, a woman comes to faith in Jesus when he asks her for a drink during an exchange at Jacob’s well. She soon discovers Living Water in him.

THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7 **Water from a Rock**
The Israelites, disgruntled over a lack of drinking water while traveling in the wilderness, expressed their frustrations to Moses. Moses responded, asking them why they insisted on testing the Lord. He cried out to God in his own frustration, and God provided for their needs, producing water flowing from a rock.

Psalm 95:1-9 **The Rock of Our Salvation**
The psalmist urged the people not to be like their ancestors who fussed and complained at Massah and Meribah, but rather to sing praises to God for his greatness. God is our God, and we are the people he loves and for whom he provides.

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-8 **Peace Through God**
Since we are justified by faith, we are able to face life’s adversities with hope. In fact, we rejoice in our sufferings because of the character and hope which develop in the midst of them. The gift of peace comes with the great gift of being made right with God through faith in Christ.

Gospel Reading: John 4:5-26 (27-30, 39-42) **Living Water**
Jesus breached social and religious boundaries when he spoke to a woman of Samaria at the village well. In the process, he revealed to her his true identity as the Messiah and offered her Living Water. She was so overwhelmed by all that Jesus knew about her that she ran back to town and proclaimed in faith whom she had seen. Many came to believe that Jesus is the Messiah of God because of her testimony.

Suggestions for the Sunday:

Liturgical Color: Purple

During the Season of Lent:

- Use the Kyrie.
- Omit the Hymn of Praise
- Use the Apostles’ Creed.

Think of all the ways in which we depend on water for life. Water is such an ordinary thing, but when we lack it, we can find ourselves in trouble. With today’s Scriptures focusing on water, it would be a perfect time to highlight how many people around the world suffer from nonpotable water and water shortages. Consider taking a special offering for a well for your global mission partners.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	497	---	699	332	241	241
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing	499	---	686	807	227	227
Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer	343	---	918	618	---	---
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me	327	---	761	623	226	226
Built on the Rock	365	---	645	652	91	---
There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy	290	---	---	587	186	186
When Peace Like a River	346	---	763	785	224	224
In Christ There is No East or West	359	---	653	650	---	---
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service	423	---	848	712	---	---
Jesus, Refuge of the Weary	93	---	423	---	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:
How Great is Our God (CCLI# 4348399)
Living Water (CCLI# 5050284)
As the Deer (CCLI# 1431)
Is Anyone Thirsty (CCLI# 1083795)
Open the Eyes of My Heart (CCLI# 2298355)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.