

hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, 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. ⁷And 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?”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95:1-9

¹Come, let us sing | to the LORD,*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of | our salvation.

**²Let us come before his presence | with thanksgiving*
and raise a loud shout to | him with psalms.**

³For the LORD | is a great God,*

and a great King a- | bove all gods.

⁴In his hand are the caverns | of the earth,*

and the heights of the hills | are his also.

⁵The sea is his, | for he made it,*

and his hands have molded | the dry land.

**⁶Come, let us bow down, and | bend the knee,*
and kneel before the | LORD our Maker.**

⁷For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep | of his hand.*

Oh, that today you would hearken | to his voice!

⁸Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did | in the wilderness,*

at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they | tempted me.

⁹They put me | to the test,*

though they had | seen my works.

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-8

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through 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. ³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and 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. ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (“RETURN TO THE LORD”), P. 63

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the Fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 4:5-26 [27-30, 39-42]

⁵So {Jesus} came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

⁶Jacob’s well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The 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.) 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 nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” ¹³Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but 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.”

¹⁵The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” 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 now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” ¹⁹The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” ²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 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 is seeking such people 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 (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.” [²⁷Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?” ²⁸So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” ³⁰They went out of the town and were coming to him.

³⁹Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” 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 indeed the Savior of the world.”]

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: PASTOR KEN REED

***HYMN: LBW 91 “SAVIOR, WHEN IN DUST TO YOU”**

*APOSTLES' CREED, P. 65

*THE PRAYERS, P. 65

*SHARING OF THE PEACE, P. 66

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY (CREATE IN ME), P. 75

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: God of love, you have provided for our every need from your abundant bounty. Grant us grateful hearts that we may give generously to those in need and thereby show your love to the world around us.

C: Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER, P. 76

*BENEDICTION, P. 76

*HYMN: (SEE INSERT) "I'M SO GLAD JESUS LIFTED ME"

**Silent Reflection as the candles are extinguished*

SENDING

POSTLUDE

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God

And in Memory of Lawrence Cline

Given by:

Wesley and Tanya Stinson



St. James Lutheran Church

Newton, NC

March 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(*) congregation stands

PRELUDE

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS, P. 56

*HYMN: LBW 327 "ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME"

*GREETING, P. 57

*KYRIE, P. 57

*PRAYER OF THE DAY, P. 62

P: Let us pray...

Eternal Lord, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

¹All 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. ²Therefore 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?" ³But 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?" ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your