

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

“Cross” Road

Pax Worship

March 12, 2023

AS WE GATHER

“Jesus Met the Woman at the Well” is the title of a traditional Gospel song first recorded in 1947 and made famous in 1964 through the recordings done by Ian and Sylvia, a Canadian folk duo, and Peter, Paul and Mary, an American folk trio. The words of the song recount the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman. The woman was amazed that Jesus knew all about her complex and complicated life and still was willing to spend time with her. Jesus knows all about each of us and the road we are on—and yet He still remains with us and calls us His own. In worship, we spend a special time with Him. How blessed we are!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING SONG

“Scars”

Verse: Waking up to a new sunrise, looking back from the other side,
 I can see now with open eyes. Darkest water and deepest
 pain, I wouldn’t trade it for anything ‘cause my brokenness
brought me to you And these wounds are a story You’ll use.

Chorus: So I’m thankful for the scars ‘cause without them I wouldn’t
 know your heart. And I know they’ll always tell of who you
are. So forever I am thankful for the scars.

Verse: Now I’m standing in confidence with the strength of your
 faithfulness, And I’m not who I was before. Now I don’t have
to fear anymore. (Chorus)

Bridge: I can see, I can see how you delivered me. In your hands in
 your feet I found my victory. I can see, I can see how you
delivered me. In your hands, in your feet I found my victory.

Chorus: I’m thankful for your scars, ‘cause without them I wouldn’t
 know your heart. And with my life I’ll tell of who you are. So
forever I am thankful

I'm thankful for the scars 'cause without them I wouldn't know your heart. And I know they'll always tell of who you are. So forever I thankful for the scars. So forever I am thankful for the scars.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, we know and admit that we are sinners. We are conceived and born sinful, and we add on to that burden of sin throughout our lives by our heedless thoughts, careless words, and loveless deeds. Indeed, we deserve God's punishment now and eternally. When we reflect honestly on our lives, we readily see that we need repentance and renewal that can only come through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Let us then make confession to our gracious God.

People: Almighty God, we repent of our sins in thought and in word and in deed. You know too well our failings and our transgressions. Be merciful to us and for the sake of Jesus, grant us Your forgiveness so that, as Your redeemed people, we may find rest in You and with refreshed hearts serve You in time and in eternity.

Pastor: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

☩ **WORD** ☩

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness

and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 17:1-7

17 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. ² 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?” ³ 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?” ⁴ So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ And he called the name of the place Massah^[a] and Meribah,^[b] because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 5:1-8

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

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 4:5-26

Vicar: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁵ So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ 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] ⁷ A 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.) ⁹ 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.) ¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ 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?" ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again.^[b] The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ 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. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵ 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.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

Vicar: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED *(found inside back cover of the hymnal)*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SONG OF THE DAY *“Living Hope”*

Verse 1 **How great the chasm that lay between us How high the
 mountain I could not climb In desperation, I turned to heaven
 And spoke Your name into the night Then through the
 darkness, Your loving kindness Tore through the shadows of
my soul The work is finished, the end is written Jesus Christ,
my living hope**

Verse 2 **Who could imagine so great a mercy What heart could
 fathom such boundless grace The God of ages stepped down
from glory To wear my sin and bear my shame The cross has spoken,
I am forgiven The King of kings calls me His own
 Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever Jesus Christ, my living
 hope**

Chorus **Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free Hallelujah, death
 has lost its grip on me You have broken every chain, there's
salvation in Your name Jesus Christ, my living hope (X2)**

Verse 3 **Then came the morning that sealed the promise Your buried
 body began to breathe Out of the silence, the roaring Lion
 Declared the grave has no claim on me (X2)**

Jesus Yours is the victory!

Chorus (X2)

Jesus Christ, my living hope! God, You are my living hope!

SERMON

“Lasting Hope”

Romans 5:1-5

Rev. Gordon W. Bruce

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING SONG *“Grace”*

Verse 1 I was lost when You found me here; You pulled me close and held me near. And I'm a fool, but still You love.
I'll be a fool for the King of love.

Verse 2 You gave me wings so I could fly, and gave me a song to color the sky. And all I have is all from You, and all I want is all of You.

Chorus It's grace, Your grace; I'm nothing without You. Your grace, Your grace, shines on me.

There've been days when I've walked away, too much to carry, nothing left to say, Forgive me, Lord, when I'm weak and lost, for You traded heaven for a wooden cross.

And all these years You've carried me, You've been my eyes when I could not see. And beauty grows in the driving rain, Your oil of gladness in the times of Pain.

Chorus X2

Tag Shines on me, shines on me, Your grace, it shines on me.
Shines on me, shines on me, It's Your grace.
Shines on me, shines on me, Your grace, it shines on me.
Shines on me, shines on me, it's Your grace.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor:: Petitions heard... (*ending with...*) Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

LORD'S PRAYER (*found inside back cover of the hymnal*)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for all You have done for Your people in Jesus Christ, our Lord. We thank You for all of creation and for every good gift with which You bless us. Accept our praise, Lord, and grant that all who partake of Christ's holy body and blood this day be refreshed and filled with Your heavenly peace and joy. As we receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, grant that we be sanctified in body and soul and spirit and finally be granted our place with all Your saints in glory. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.
Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His Body, the Church. Be among us with Your sacred and refreshing gifts, O Lord, and enlighten us by the working of Your Holy Spirit that we may continue in this fellowship and do the good works which You

desire us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom, with You and the same Spirit, be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“REVELATION SONG”

Verse: Worthy is the, Lamb who was slain Holy, Holy, is He
(repeat) Sing a new song, to him who sits on Heaven's mercy seat

Chorus: *Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty Who was, and is, and is to come With all creation I sing, Praise to the King of Kings You are my everything, and I will adore You*

Verse: Clothed in rainbows, of living color
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder
Blessing and honor, strength and
Glory and Power be
To You the only wise King (Chorus)

Verse: Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder
At the mention of your name
Jesus your name is power
Breath, and living water

Such a marvelous mystery (Chorus 3 X's)