

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

“Cross” Road

Traditional Worship Service

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 HYMN

“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive” #609 vs 1-4,7

1. Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander! Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.
2. We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing, Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here our ills have perfect healing. Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.
3. Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e'er forsaketh; Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.
4. I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession. Savior, mercy show to me; Grant for all my sins remission. Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.
7. Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven; And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven. Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.

INVOCATION

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

People: **(sing) Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 34:1-3, 5, 22*

People: **I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together! Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. The LORD redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.**

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: **(sing) Amen.**

☩ **WORD** ☩

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: (sing) 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

R o m a n s 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. Matthew, 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

HYMN OF THE DAY

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory #427

1. **In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.**
2. **When the woes of life o'ertake me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.**
3. **When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.**
4. **Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure By the Cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time
abide.**

SERMON

“Lasting Hope”

Romans 5:1-5

Rev. Gordon W. Bruce

OFFERTORY

“Create in Me” #956

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.*

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING HYMN

“Come, My Soul, with Every Care” #779

1. **Come, my soul, with ev'ry care, Jesus loves to answer prayer;
He Himself has bid thee pray, Therefore will not turn away.**
2. **Thou art coming to a King, Large petitions with thee bring;
For His grace and pow'r are such None can ever ask too much.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Petitions heard... (*ending with...*) Lord, in Your mercy,
People: **hear our prayer.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **(sing) And with thy spirit.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: **(sing) We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **(sing) It is meet and right so to do.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And now we thank You that by the working of Your Holy Spirit through the Gospel, You have called us as Your own and given us eternal promises through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, as the perfect offering, has taken upon Himself the sins of the world and has, by His rising from the grave, opened to us the very gates of heaven. With all the company around the throne of the Lamb in His kingdom, we join the unending praises:

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy” #195
(sing) Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

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: (sing) Amen.

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

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."

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

PAX DOMINI

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

People: (sing) Amen.

AGNUS DEI

#198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,

Have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world. Have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, t h a t takest away the sin of the world, Grant us Thy peace. A---men.

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *“Not All the Blood of Beasts”* #431

1. Not all the blood of beasts On Jewish altars slain Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.
2. But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb, Takes all our sins away; A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.
3. My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine, While as a penitent I stand, And there confess my sin.
4. My soul looks back to see The burden Thou didst bear When hanging on the cursed tree; I know my guilt was there.

NUNC DIMITTIS #199

Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people: A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your People Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen.

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: **(sing) 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: **(sing) Amen, Amen, Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“O Jesus Blessed Lord, to Thee” #632

1. **O Jesus, blessed Lord, to Thee My heartfelt thanks forever be,
 Who has so lovingly bestowed On me Thy body and Thy
blood.**

2. **Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is come to me this
day! My Savior dwells within my heart: How blessed am I! How good
Thou art!**

SILENT PRAYER