

Look for the
Thirst-Quencher

3rd Sunday in Lent
March 12, 2023



Ascension Lutheran Church
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Ogden, UT 84404
801.782.2810

Welcome to Worship...

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 50 years ago.

A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community, communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

**Children are always welcome in worship services;
however please know a nursery space is available for
parents who need to tend to their little ones.**

Please silence your cell phones at this time.

Introduction—Lookin' for Love in All the Wrong Places

The Christian scriptures offer many images of where love, grace, forgiveness, righteousness, and healing can REALLY be found. And it is not in the "usual" places. Isn't it as true of us today as it was of the scriptural authors? Don't we often look for wholeness and happiness in places that offer only temporary "good feelings" and satisfaction?

Lent is a wonderfully reflective time to reassess where we are searching for meaning and purpose. We'll move through stories of Jesus to find out who offers the "real deal."

Call to Worship

(All) Hearts o - pen, minds a -
wake, change us now for heav - en's
sake; leave us not a - lone in ha - tred's wake. -
- Show us how - to love, show us how -
- to love, show us how, show us how -
- to love.

P Our worship series for Lent continues as we contemplate the ways we have looked for satisfaction in things that cannot satisfy. The Samaritan woman at the well in our scripture today found out that the water she came for was not really the water she needed so desperately. This woman had looked for love in many places, in many faces. When she was finally offered a soul-quenching love by Jesus, she became a powerful messenger of Good News. Just as the water given by God that flowed in the desert for the Israelites offered new life, the desert of our lives can be refreshed if we look for love regularly at the well of living water and offer life-giving water to others.

(All) Eyes o - pen, shocked a -
 wake, much to learn from our mis -
 takes; draw us clo - ser in our heart - ache.
 Show us how - to love, show us
 how - to love, show us how, show us
 how - - to love.

Confession and Assurance

P Let us join together in opening our hearts to the love of God. Before we even utter a word, we can be assured God will offer us grace and a way forward. For this reason, we can be honest with what pains us most about our own thoughts and actions. Let us pray:

Holy and Merciful One,

**we come bringing our deepest longings,
 and our failed attempts at satisfying them.**

We have often looked for love in things that cannot give us love.

**We yearn for lives that matter,
 we desire relationships that thrive,
 we want less regret.**

**We fail to see that you have already given us what really matters:
 your love and acceptance.**

P You provide opportunities all around us
to make a difference in the lives of others.
You give us a fresh start each day, inviting us to trust you.

In this silence, we confess we have looked for love in all the wrong places.
Today may we open ourselves to a change in our paths to seeing with
new eyes, to setting aside empty promises.

Silence for self reflection.

My friends, be assured by the Psalmist who reminds us that
our God is the “rock of our salvation” in whose hand is the
“depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains.”

Let us respond together:

***All* We open our hearts, our minds, our souls, our vision
to the ways of love created by God,
embodied in Jesus,
and already moving in us by the Spirit.
We are forgiven, loved, and freed! Amen!**

We Proclaim

A reading from Exodus

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed
by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was
no water for the people to drink.

The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses
said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?"

But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against
Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children
and livestock with thirst?"

So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are
almost ready to stone me."

The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Exodus 17: 1-7

L The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand as you are able.

O - pen the eyes___ of my heart,___ Lord,___

o - pen the eyes___ of my heart;___ I want to see You,___

I want to see You.___ O - pen the eyes___ of my heart,___

___ Lord,___ o - pen the eyes___ of my heart;___ I want to

see You,___ I want to see You._____

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 4th chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

The 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.)

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."

The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"

Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but 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."

The 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."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."

The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"

The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."

Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just 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?"

Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,

"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"

They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do 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. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for

which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They 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."

John 4: 5-42

P The Word of God that is still speaking,

All Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

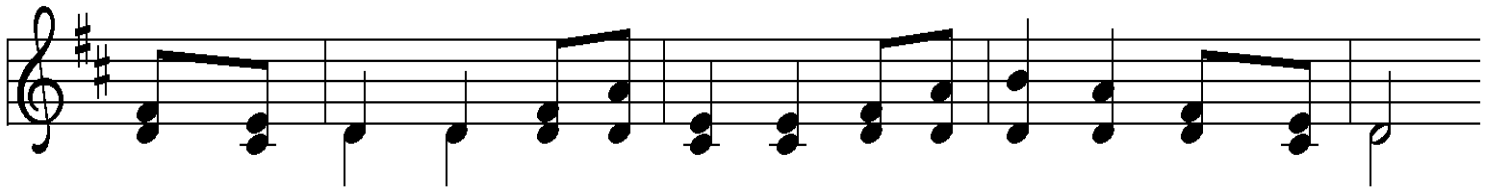
Sermon

Pr. Debra Jimenez

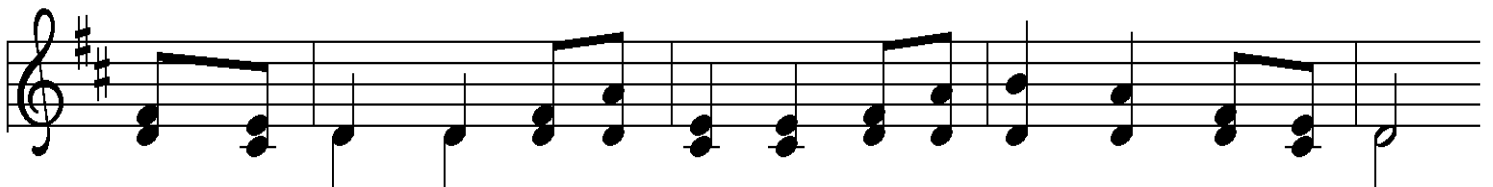
Hymn of the Day

Please stand as you are able.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



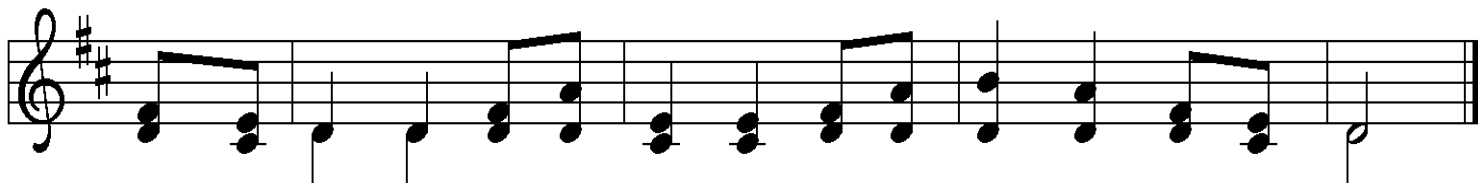
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

[You may be Seated](#)

Apostles' Creed

P Let us join together with the saints across the ages confessing our faith with the words of the 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.**

Prayers of the People

L In this season of Lent, we are joining together in prayer using an ancient form in the church. The Greek words, “Kyrie Eleison” mean “God, have mercy on us.” The church has been chanting this during prayer since the early centuries of its existence. We will be led in various intercessions—prayers in categories—followed by singing this simple chant as a response to each one. The repetition of this beautiful “Kyrie” is itself a prayer. God’s mercy is a gift of love, given freely to us.

♪ ♪ **Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison** ♪ ♪
Kyrie Eleison, I pray.

Prayers for the World

...God have mercy. In this singing we lift up this world to you with our love:

Prayers for Our Community

...God have mercy. In this singing we lift up this community to you with our love:

Prayers for Our Relationships

...God have mercy. In this singing we lift up each other to you with our love:

Prayers for Our Selves

...God have mercy. In this singing we open ourselves to your love:

Sharing the Peace

In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will share the peace of our risen Lord by “speaking” that peace through sign language.

P Christ become Love and Peace with you.

All And also with you.

Offering

While we still will not physically pass the offering plates we will continue to have the plates available at the entrance to receive your offerings and will lift them up in thanksgiving before the throne of grace.

I cast all my cares up - on You. I
lay all of my bur - dens down at Your feet. And
an - y - time that I don't know what to do, I will
cast all my cares up - on You.

Offertory Prayer

P God of good gifts,

All Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
our selves, our time, and our possessions.

Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love.

Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

Holy Communion

P May Love be with you!

All And also with you!

P Lift up your hearts!

All We lift them up to the Lord!

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All It is right to give our thanks and praise!

P What love you have given us in your Son Jesus Christ!

Your Spirit poured out through him,

as he brought good news, proclaimed freedom, healed, and fed.

His life of love shows us the way.

His life of love delivers us from false hopes.

His life, death, and resurrection offered ultimate and enduring love.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread
and gave thanks;

broke it and gave it to his disciples saying:

Take and eat; this is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

And so, in remembrance of this love in Jesus Christ,

we offer our love completely as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again!

The Lord's Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

P Now gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught.

All ***Our Father, who art in heaven,***
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

The Invitation

P Christ has prepared the feast.
Come to the table where all are welcomed home.

Communion Songs

You may be Seated

For Those Tears I Died Words and Music by
Marsha J. Stevens



1. You said You'd come__ and share all my sor-rows._____ You said You'd
(2.) good-ness so great__ I can't un - der- stand,____ and dear Lord, I
3. Je - sus, I give You my heart and my soul,_____ I know that with -



be there for all my to - mor-rows.____ I came so close____ to
know____ that all this was planned._____ I know You're here now and
-out God I'd nev - er be whole._____ Sav - ior, You o - pened



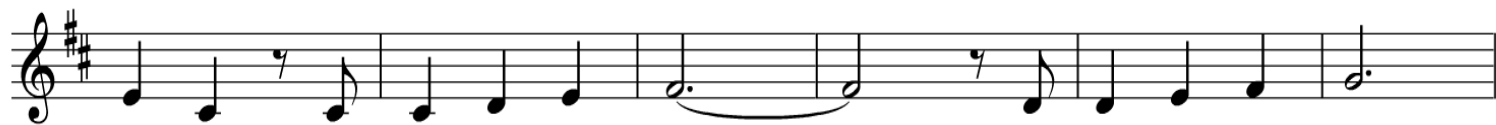
send-ing You a - way. But just like You prom-ised, You came here to__
 al - ways will be, Your love loosed my chains__ and in You I'm__
 all__ the right doors and I thank You and praise You from earth's hum - ble__



stay, _____ I just had to pray. _____ And Je - sus said,
 free, _____ but Je - sus why me? _____
 shores, _____ Take me, I'm Yours. _____



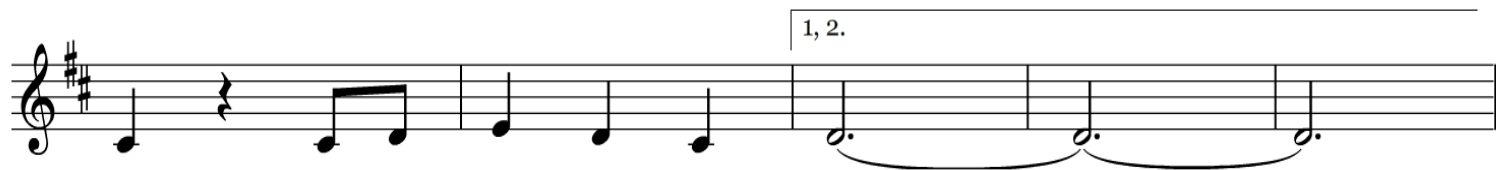
"Come to the wa - ter, stand by My__ side; I know you are



thirs - ty, you won't be de - nied. _____ I felt ev - 'ry tear -



-drop when in dark-ness you cried _____ and I strove to re - mind



you that for those tears I died." _____



2. Your died." _____
 (3.)

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Spir - it of the
 liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me,
 fill me, use me. Spir - it of the
 liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All Amen.

P Embodied God,
 at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

**All With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
 empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
 and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

*Stewardship of Life and Ministry
 Announcements*

Benediction

Please stand as you are able.

P May the weary weight you have carried here
surrender to the power of connection and communion.
May the fullness of your actual self find warmth and recognition
in the presence of Jesus, the risen One.
May the healing presence of God flow through you,
soothing the cracks of your soul, ✝ anointing your whole life.

All Amen.

- Show us how - to love, show us how -
- to love, show us how, show us how -
- to love.

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Serve in love.

All Thanks be to God.

"GIVE ME A DRINK OF WATER?"
THIS CONVERSATION STARTS OUT **WEIRD** AND GETS **WEIRDER!**



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

NO, IT'S **COOL!** SEE YAHWEH IS OFTEN DESCRIBED AS ROMANCING ISRAEL* AND BOTH ISAAC AND MOSES MET THEIR WIVES AT WELLS**, SO THIS SCENE IDENTIFIES JESUS AS THE ONE WHO PURSUES GOD'S PEOPLE AS YAHWEH DID, EXCEPT THAT THE WOMAN IS AN OUTSIDER AND FAR FROM PERFECT... SHE'S ALL OF US!



* ISAIAH 62:5
** GEN. 24:17 & EX. 2:15

WELL YOU CAN TELL HE'S **DIVINE**. WITH A PICK UP LINE LIKE THAT, I WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN GOTTEN A **PHONE NUMBER!**



JOHN 4:5-42

© WETZSTEIN 11.03.23

Readings for next Sunday,
March 19th
Second Sunday in Lent

First Reading:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm:

Psalm 23

Second Reading:

Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel:

John 9:1-41

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