

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 12, 2023
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
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THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Introduction

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

Gushing with Grace

The word gush has nuances of meaning. On the one hand, it can speak to large amounts of a liquid flowing forth. A geyser gushing water is quite different than a leaky faucet letting water through a drop at a time. On the other hand, gush can speak to our enthusiasm about a person, place, or experience. A person gushing about a new movie to a friend carries different energy than someone saying, "Eh, it was okay."

In today's gospel we get the first sense of this word as Jesus tells the Samaritan woman about the water he will give, which will become a spring that gushes up to eternal life. The word gush is not used again in the story, but the second part of the narrative gathers up the spirit of the other sense of gush as the woman goes back to the city and shares her experience of Jesus. Many in the city come to believe because of her witness; she must have been gushing forth energy and excitement about her encounter with Jesus.

As the church takes on the ministry of Jesus after the resurrection, we find other people springing forth in the same way Jesus talks about water gushing. Peter heals someone in Acts 3:8 who jumps up and leaps (gushes) in praise. Paul also heals someone in Acts 14:10 who springs up (gushes) and walks.

The water in your baptismal font may be still, or it may be moving; it may be more reminiscent of a trickle than a gush. Yet we know that it is God's word that gives the plain water the power to shape us as God's people. Baptism is never a trickle; it is always a gush of grace poured out for us with the endless love and mercy of God. May we be blessed to gush along with the Samaritan woman about our experiences of Jesus among us.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

I Will Call Upon the Lord

All
I will call up-on the Lord

Music Minister
I will call up-on the Lord who is wor-thy to be
who is wor- thy to be praised. So shall I be
praised. So shall I be saved from my en - e - mies.
saved from my en - e - mies.

All
I will call up - on the Lord. The
Lord liv-eth, and bless-ed be the Rock, and let the God of my sal -
va - tion be ex - alt - ed. The Lord liv - eth, and bless - ed be the Rock,
and let the God of my sal - va - tion be ex - alt - ed.

OPENING LITANY: Psalm 95

Come, let us sing to the Lord.

Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

Let us acclaim God's mercy with songs of praise!

It is good to give you thanks, O Lord;

to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

and your faithfulness by night,

to the music of the lute and harp,

to the melody of the lyre.

For you, O God, have made us glad by your work;

At the works of your hands we sing for joy.

GATHERING SONGS

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.

Enough

(Refrain - All)

**All of you is more than enough for all of me,
For every thirst and every need.
You satisfy me with your love,
And all I have in you is more than enough.**

(Verse 1 - All)

**You're my supply my breath of life:
Still more awesome than I know.
You're my reward worth living for:
Still more awesome than I know.**

(Refrain - All)

**And all of you is more than enough for all of me,
For every thirst and every need.
You satisfy me with your love,
And all I have in you is more than enough.**

(Verse 2 - All)

**You're my sacrifice of greatest price:
Still more awesome than I know.
You're my coming King, you are everything:
Still more awesome than I know.**

(Refrain - All)

**And all of you is more than enough for all of me,
For every thirst and every need.
You satisfy me with your love,
And all I have in you-**

(Music Ministers/All)

**More than all I want, more than all I need:
You are more than enough for me.
More than all I know, more than all I can say:
You are more than enough.
More than all I want, more than all I need:
You are more than enough for me.
More than all I know, more than all I can say:
You are more than enough.**

(Refrain - All)

**And all of you is more than enough for all of me,
For every thirst and every need.
You satisfy me with your love,
And all I have in you is more than enough.**

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

CONFESSION

God of mercy, hear the prayers of your children. For every time we have attributed your miracles in our lives to our own work:

Forgive us, we pray.

For every time we promised to trust you but turned to our own way when your response did not come soon enough or in the way we expected:

Grant us mercy, O God.

For the many opportunities we have missed to extend your forgiveness and grace:

Teach us your way of steadfast love.

For placing our own understanding above your wisdom; for the times we fail to foster loving relationships with those who are different from us:

Direct us in the way of peace.

For the sins we recall in the silence of our hearts.

(Silent reflection)

Take away our guilt and our shame, and create in us new hearts.

Forgive us, Heavenly Father, and show us your grace. Mold us into vessels of tenderness and compassion. Remove our fear and make us one. Amen.

FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Merciful God, **the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

*Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.*

FIRST READING

Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the LORD among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.

A reading from the book of 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?”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus’ death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

A reading from the book of Romans.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through

the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**** GOSPEL**

John 4:5-42

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus] 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."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ..**

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Jamie Vannoy

**** 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 power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.**

**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 COMMUNITY

GATHERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples 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 we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

** LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

**** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

HOLY COMMUNION - *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Each person may respond: **Amen.***

Communion Statement ~ *If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.*

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

*As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work **in** us and **through** us in the coming days.*

**** TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace.
Amen.

**** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**** BLESSING**

God, the giver of love, Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

**** SENDING SONG**

Your Grace Is Enough

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Great is your faithfulness, O God;
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart.
You lead us by still waters into mercy,
And nothing can keep us apart.
So remember your people,
Remember your children,
Remember your promise, O God.

(Refrain - Music Ministers)

Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough for me.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers/**All**)

Great is your love and justice, God;
You use the weak to lead the strong.
You lead us in the song of your salvation,
And all your people sing along.
**So remember your people,
Remember your children,
Remember your promise, O God.**

(Refrain - **All**)

**Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough for me.**

**Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough for me.**

(All)
Remember your people,
Remember your children,
Remember your promise, O God.

Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough for me.

(All/Music Ministers)
Your grace is enough;
Heaven reaches out to us.
Your grace is enough for me.

Your grace is enough;
I'm covered in your love.
Your grace is enough for me.

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two
Make a commitment to not only worship each week
but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation
and seek out a way to serve our community.

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

Upcoming Commemorations

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604 **Sunday, March 12, 2023**

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.

Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461 **Friday, March 17, 2023**

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.

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