

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



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 8, 2026  
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
901 EAST STROOP ROAD  
KETTERING, OHIO 45429-4688  
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# 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.

## Our “Other” at the Well

The woman at the well is a familiar text for many people. This image of Jesus standing at a well talking with a Samaritan woman is emblazoned in our visual and theological imaginations, but as with all Bible stories that we think we know, we might do well to take another look! Perhaps relegating this text to the simple moralism “be nice to people who are different” causes us to miss how deeply radical and difficult the message really is. We may assume this gospel simply urges us to stand with the marginalized, especially women. Yet while standing with marginalized women is a commendable action it can lead us, after doing so, to congratulate ourselves for being just like Jesus. A more critical and searching look at this text calls us to the reality that Jesus doesn't just stand with the other, Jesus stands with your other; your church's other. Your church's “Samaritans” may be LGBTQ+ people, evangelicals, urban people, rural people, conservatives, liberals, the poor, the rich, the dying, or single parents. Your church's Samaritans could very well be the key to this text. Because, like it or not, when we draw lines between ourselves and other people, Jesus is always on the other side of that line. So communities and individuals who thirst for the living water would do well to look to who our own Samaritans might be. And when we find them we should perhaps not be surprised to also find Jesus; a Jesus we thought was all our own but who, in reality, is the living water who comes to us in the strange and the stranger.

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\*\* *indicates to stand as you are able.*

# GATHERING

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

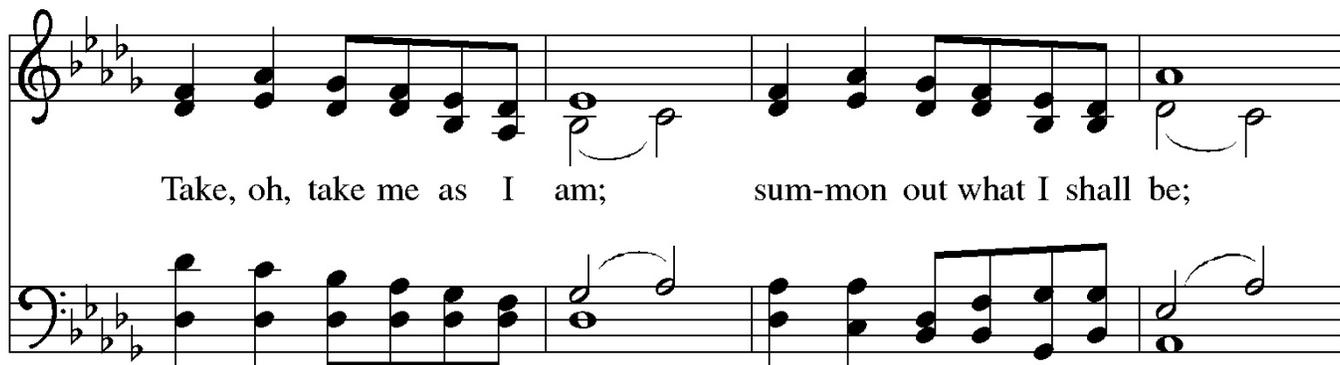
## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Pastor Mallory Morris*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*"Take, oh, Take Me as I Am "*



Take, oh, take me as I am;      sum-mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

## \*\* OPENING LITANY

Come, let us worship God!

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

Come, let us worship our Shepherd!

**We are the sheep of God's pasture, and we follow where God leads us.**

Come, let us open our hearts!

**We receive God's love poured into our hearts through the Spirit.**

Come, let us worship God, the rock of our salvation!

**Let us worship God, whose mercy guides and sustains us on the path of new life!**

**\*\* GATHERING SONGS**

**“Living Waters”**

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Are you thirsty? Are you empty?  
Come, and drink these living waters.  
Tired and broken? Peace unspoken,  
Rest beside these living waters.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

Christ is calling, find refreshing  
At the cross of living waters.  
Lay your life down: all the old gone;  
Rise up in these living waters.

(Refrain - Music Ministers)

There's a river that flows  
With mercy and love,  
Bringing joy to the city of our God.  
There our hope is secure;  
Do not fear anymore;  
Praise the Lord of living waters.

**(Verse 3 - All)**

**Spirit moving, mercy washing,  
Healing in these living waters.  
Lead your children to the shoreline;  
Life is in these living waters.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**There's a river that flows  
With mercy and love,  
Bringing joy to the city of our God.  
There our hope is secure;  
Do not fear anymore;  
Praise the Lord of living waters.**

(Bridge - Music Ministers)

Ooh...

**(Verse 4 - All)**

**Are you thirsty? Are you empty?  
Come, and drink these living waters.  
Love, forgiveness: vast and boundless;  
Christ - he is our living waters.**

**(Final Refrain - All / Music Ministers)**

**There's a river that flows  
With mercy and love,  
Bringing joy to the city of our God.  
There our hope is secure;  
Do not fear anymore;  
Praise the Lord of living waters.**

There our hope is secure;  
Do not fear anymore;  
Praise the Lord of living waters.

**“Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King”**

(Verse 1)

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise;  
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above,  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

(Verse 2)

I was lost in utter darkness 'til you came and rescued me;  
I was bound by all my sin when your love came and set me free;  
Now my soul can sing a new song, now my heart has found a home;  
Now your grace is always with me, and I'll never be alone.

(Refrain)

Come, thou Fount; come, thou King,  
Come, thou precious Prince of Peace;  
Hear your bride, to you we sing;  
Come, thou Fount of our blessing.  
Come, thou Fount; come, thou King,

Come, thou precious Prince of Peace;  
Hear your bride, to you we sing;  
Come, thou Fount of our blessing.

(Verse 3)

O, to grace, how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee;  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

(Refrain)

Come, thou Fount; come, thou King,  
Come, thou precious Prince of Peace;  
Hear your bride, to you we sing;  
Come, thou Fount of our blessing.  
Come, thou Fount; come, thou King,  
Come, thou precious Prince of Peace;  
Hear your bride, to you we sing;  
Come, thou Fount of our blessing.

"Amazing Love"

C Dm<sup>7</sup> Gsus G

1 My Lord, what love is this that pays so  
2 And so they watched him die, de - spised, re -  
3 And now this love of Christ shall flow like

Csus C G C Dm<sup>7</sup> F/G G C

dear - ly, that I, the guilt - y one, may go free?  
ject - ed; but, oh, the blood he shed flowed for me.  
riv - ers; come, wash your guilt a - way, live a - gain.

*Refrain* Gm<sup>7</sup> C Eb

A - maz - ing love, oh, what sac - ri - fice, the Son of God giv'n for

G Gm<sup>7</sup> C

me; my debt he pays and my death he dies, that

Gm<sup>7</sup> C Gm<sup>7</sup> C

I might live, that I might live.

**\*\* CONFESSION**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
and blots out all offenses

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**\*\* FORGIVENESS**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead

dwells in you,

pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace.

**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.**

**\*\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

**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 Exodus, the seventeenth chapter.

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 for 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.**

**PSALM**

Psalm 95

*Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)*

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving**

**and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**

For you, Lord, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

**"Harden not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

There your ancestors tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

**Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,  
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**

Indeed I swore in my anger,  
'They shall never come to my rest.' "

## **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 Romans, the fifth chapter.

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 afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, 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, therefore, since we have now 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 READING**

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, the fourth chapter.

**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 Mallory Morris*

**\*\* 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 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 INTERCESSION**

*Assisting Minister*

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

*Each petition concludes:*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

**GATHERING OF THE GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

*Assisting Minister*

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **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 to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

***For those communing at home or in the pew:***

**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. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.

**REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION**

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ and ponder 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 each and every day.

**\*\* 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**

*Assisting Minister*

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**\*\* SENDING OF COMMUNION**

*Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.*

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us

all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

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

### \*\* BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
‡ bless you now and always.  
**Amen.**

### \*\* SENDING HYMN

#### **“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. Believe the Good news.

**Created, saved and gifted by God,**

**we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

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**“W + 2” = WORSHIP PLUS TWO**

**MAKE A COMMITMENT NOT ONLY TO 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**

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# UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

## **Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society**

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

## **Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604**

Thursday, March 12, 2026

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.