

Contemporary Worship

Unfinished: Called by God

March 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent

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.

GATHERING MUSIC

Come to the Water – John Foley

*O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
Without money, without price,
Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?*

*And let all who seek, let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
Without money, without strife,
Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?*

*And let all who toil, let them come to the water.
And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord:
All who labor, without rest,
How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord?*

*And let all the poor, let them come to the water.
Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:
Bring the children, without might,
Easy the load and light, come to the Lord.*

WELCOME

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION *

Mercy on This Fallen World

A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.

The Praise Team sings the refrain and then the Assembly joins in singing the refrain.

The Leader and the Assembly join in prayer and all join in the refrain as indicated.

Refrain

Have mer - cy on this fal - len world. Have mercy on us. Have
mer-cy on this fal-len world, mer - cy Lord have mercy on us.

Leader: Gracious God,

**Assembly: we confess that we listen to the wrong voices
and that we prevent others from hearing your call.**

**We see others only by the water jars they carry—
by their past, their reputation, their shame—
and we fail to see how you are already at work
in surprising and life-giving ways.**

**Forgive us, claim us,
and call us anew so that our lives are transformed
for the sake of the Gospel.**

Through Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord.

Amen.

Refrain

Leader: God who is rich in mercy, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love
has come to us in Jesus, who by his holy cross has redeemed the world.
Buried with Christ by baptism into death,
our sins are forgiven in † Jesus' name.
Cross-marked and Spirit-sealed,
we are raised to new life.
Almighty God strengthen you in faith
to live each day renewed in God's call for your life.

GOSPEL LESSON *

John 4:5-42

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

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

Assembly: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁵ [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹ 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.)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 no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ 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."¹⁵ 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."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."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 have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."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 seeks such as these 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" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷ 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?"²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² 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.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG *

Come to the Water of Life



1	All	who	are	thirst - y	for	mer - cy,	all	who	are	thirst - y	for
2	All	who	are	thirst - y	for	heal - ing,	all	who	are	thirst - y	for
3	All	who	are	thirst - y	for	beau - ty,	all	who	are	thirst - y	for
4	All	who	are	thirst - y	for	jus - tice,	all	who	are	thirst - y	for



love;	all	who	are	thirst - y	for	love,	for	mer - cy,
touch;	all	who	are	thirst - y	for	touch,	for	heal - ing,
truth;	all	who	are	thirst - y	for	truth,	for	beau - ty,
peace;	all	who	are	thirst - y	for	peace,	for	jus - tice,



come:	come	to	the	Wa - ter	of	life.
come:	come	to	the	Wa - ter	of	life.
come:	come	to	the	Wa - ter	of	life.
come:	come	to	the	Wa - ter	of	life.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: WATER OF LIFE, Ray Makeever

Text and music © 1999 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

HOLY BAPTISM

Anastasia Lorraine Gowan

Parents: Garret Thomas Gowan & Ashley Angeline Kaercher

Sponsors: Amanda Kaercher Llana & Conor Thomas Gowan

Pastor: Today we receive Anastasia Lorraine Gowan into God's family through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Garret and Ashley, our scriptures tell us that after his birth, Mary and Joseph went to the temple to present to God their dearest treasure, Jesus.

Today you offer your daughter, Anastasia, to God and ask that she be received into this family of Christ to inherit the great blessings and promises of abundant life.

On this day we gather to make promises to one another in God's presence.

God will first be known to Anastasia by the Christ seen in your home.

And so, I ask you as sponsors, Amanda and Conor, and you as her parents, Garret and Ashley, will you teach Anastasia by word and deed the way of Christ and the word of God?

Will you share with her the Church's life, worship, instruction in the Christian faith, and Holy Communion so that she may grow to be a faithful child of God?

If so, answer, "we promise."

Parents & Sponsors: We promise.

Pastor: Let us join our hearts in prayer:

O God the giver of all new life,
look with kindness upon the family of Anastasia.
Let them ever rejoice in the gifts you have given them.
Enable them to keep the promises they have made this day,
and strengthen them in their own baptisms
so that they may share in the gift of life you have given to her.
Creator God, bless all our children that they may grow in faith
and may shine with the light of your love.

Assembly: Amen.

Pastor: We live in a world that is broken in sin,
even as we hope for the world that is to come.
The powers of evil are no strangers to us here.
We renounce them and turn our faces to the light.
Now I ask you, family and sponsors,
do you renounce the forces of evil?
If so, please answer, "we renounce them."

Parents & Sponsors: We renounce them.

Pastor: Will you open Anastasia's eyes
that she may understand the difference between hate,
division, destruction, and the light of God's love,
unity, and peace?
If so, answer, "we will."

Parents & Sponsors: We will.

Pastor: God is love and in God there is no darkness at all.
We have been made God's people through our baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope,
we confess our faith as a congregation
using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**Assembly: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

Water is placed on the head of those being baptized.

Pastor: Anastasia Lorraine Gowan, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
in the name of the Son, and in the name of the Holy Spirit.

The sign of the cross is made on the forehead of the newly baptized.

Pastor: Anastasia, you are a child of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit
and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

A baptismal candle is lighted from the Paschal Candle

Deacon: Anastasia, let your light so shine before others
that they may see the blessings you have in life
and give glory to God.

Pastor: Through baptism God has made Anastasia a member of the priesthood
we all share in Christ Jesus,
that we may proclaim the wonders of God
and bring a creative and redeeming word to all the World.
Let us join together in welcoming Anastasia.

**Assembly: We welcome you into the Lord's family,
we receive you as a member of the body of Christ,
child of the same heavenly Father,
and worker with us in the Kingdom of God.**

OFFERING

Come Just As You Are – Joseph Sabolick

*As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the
many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.*

*Offering plates are available at each entrance to the sanctuary and the QR code below can be
used to give our tithes and offering.*



Come just as you are, hear the Spirit call.

Come just as you are.

Come and see, come receive,

Come and live forever.

Life everlasting, and strength for today;

Taste the Living Water, and never thirst again.

Come just as you are, hear the Spirit call.

Come just as you are.

Come receive, Christ the King,

Come and live forever.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *

Leader: We come to the table with thirst.
Here Christ meets us at the well
and offers living water—
grace that knows us
and mercy that does not run dry.
Come and be filled.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

Remember Me

(Praise Team)

All: So, we thank You for the wine and for the bread;
For we see the life You gave and the blood You shed.
And we remember Your wondrous love,
You gave Your body, You shed Your blood;
And we remember Your wondrous love,
You gave your body, You shed Your blood.

"Remember Me" words and music by Gerrit Gustafson and Martin Nystrom

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LORD'S PRAYER *

**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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

*Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available
in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.*

*You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets
at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of
the cups and packaging after the service.*

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Pastor: Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you
Communion Receiver: Amen.

As The Deer

Verse 1: As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee.

Chorus: You alone are my strength, my shield;
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.

Verse 2: You're my friend and You are my brother, even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other, so much more than anything...*chorus*

Verse 3: I want You more than gold or silver, only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver and the apple of my eye...*chorus*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Leader: God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that quenches our thirst
and restores our souls.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
fill us with living water so that we may bear witness to your love;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Assembly: Amen.

SONG *

God Sends Us Forth

1. God sends us forth to love and serve,
2. Nour-ished by Christ with word and bread,
3. Called to the ones the world ig-nores—
4. So, with the cross to lead the way,
make known God's name, and live God's word,
burn-ing with love and Spir-it-led,
hun-gry and thirst-y, weak and poor—
let us go forth in peace to-day
mir-ror God's love, re-flect God's grace till
sent to em-brace a world in need, to
let us bear Christ, who heals all pain and
till ev-'ry end of earth has known the
all have seen the Sav-ior's face.
make God known in word and deed.
com-forts those with guilt and or shame.
sav-ing love of God a-lone.

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.
Share God’s overflowing Water of Life with the world.

Assembly: Thanks be to God!

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Praise Team

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FLOWER DEDICATION:

*The altar flowers are given in honor of their children and grandchildren
by Steve and Gretchen Lauer.*

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