

Traditional 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

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

PRELUDE

Voluntary on KINGSFOLD – arr. Alfred Fedak

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL *

As the bell is rung the assembly stands for the Welcome & Opening Hymn.

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

WELCOME *

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN #533

Open Now the Gates of Beauty

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Leader: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.**

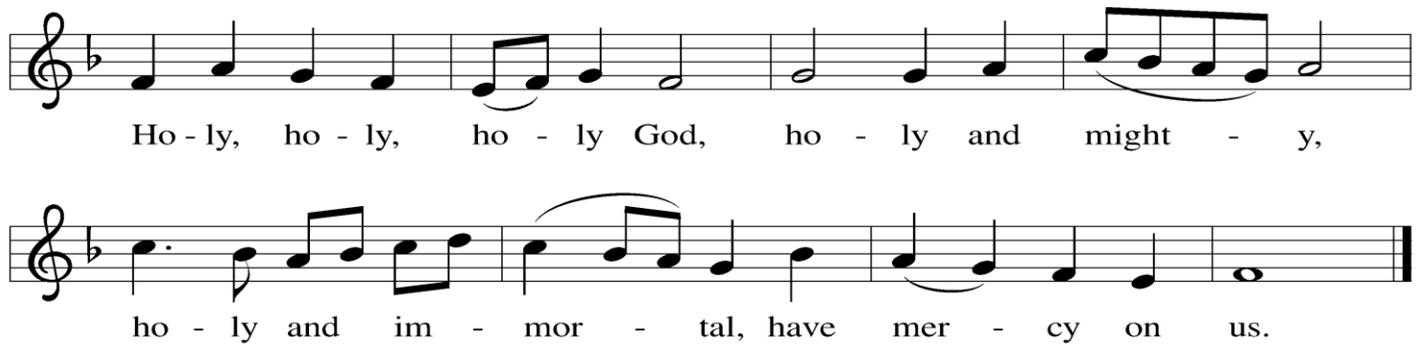
The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff is for the Leader and the second for the Assembly. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy." The third staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy." The final staff concludes with the lyrics: "Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

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.

Assembly: Amen.

TRISAGION *

This ancient hymn of the church translates as “thrice holy” and is sung in place of the Hymn of Praise (“Glory to God” or “This is the Feast”) during Lent.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,
ho - ly and im - mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *

Leader: Let us pray.

Tune our hearts to listen to your voice, O God.
Help us to discern which voices to listen to in our daily lives.
Meet us in our places of need and longing,
and inspire us to trust in your call upon our lives.
In the name of † Jesus,

Assembly: Amen.

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.

¹ 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. ² 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?” ³ 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?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

⁵ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

O Come, Let us Sing to the Lord - Psalm 95

The assembly joins the cantor in singing the Psalm.

Unison

1. O come and sing un - to the Lord, to God our voic - es
 2. Be - fore God's pres-ence let us come with praise and thank - ful
 3. The Lord our God is King of kings, God's might has been made
 4. To God the spa-cious sea be-longs, God made its waves and
 5. O come, and bow - ing down to God our wor - ship let us

raise; let us in our most joy - ful songs the
 voice; let us sing psalms to God with grace, with
 known; the depths of earth are in God's hand, the
 tides; and by God's hand the ris - ing land was
 bring; come, let us kneel be - fore the Lord, our

Lord, our Sav - ior, praise, the Lord our Sav - ior, praise.
 grate - ful hearts re - jice, with grate - ful hearts re - jice.
 moun-tains are God's own, the moun-tains are God's own.
 formed, and still a - bides, was formed and still a - bides.
 Mak - er and our King, our Mak - er and our King.

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.

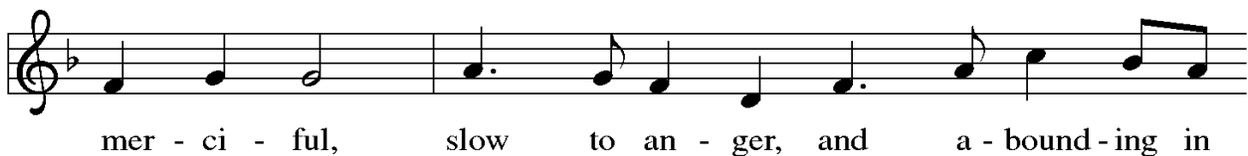
¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces 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 that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *



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.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #611 *

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

PRAYERS *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in “Hear us, O God.”

Assembly: **Your mercy is great.**

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with “through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.”

Assembly: **Amen.**

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: **And also with you!**

*The assembly greets each other with
“peace be with you...and also with you.”*

You’re invited to share God’s peace with those around you.

If you’re worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

OFFERING

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 will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.

Gifts can also be given electronically using the QR Code.



8:00 – *Do You Thirst?* – Mark Shepperd

Do you thirst, child? Do you hunger? Do you long for water flowing free?

Do you know that you can have it? You can have it so abundantly.

Springs can flow within your soul if you'll ask of me;

I will make you overflow. Come and drink of me.

Do you thirst, child? Do you hunger? Do you long for bread to satisfy?

DO you know that you can have it? You can have it so abundantly.

I can fill your hungering soul if you'll sup with me;

I have spread a feast for you. Come and take of me.

Do you hunger? Do you thirst?

Come and ask of me.

11:00 – *Come to Me and Rest* – arr. Lloyd Larson

I heard the voice of Jesus say,

"Come unto me and rest; lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;

I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad.

*I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light; look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come to me, I will give you rest."*

OFFERTORY *

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
 that we should at all times and in all places
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
 through our Savior Jesus Christ.

At this table he meets us in our thirst and offers living water
 —grace that does not run dry, mercy that leads to eternal life.

When we draw from shallow wells, he becomes our fountain of renewal.
 When our spirits are parched, he fills us until our lives overflow with hope.

And so, with all who drink deeply of your promise, and with the hosts of heaven,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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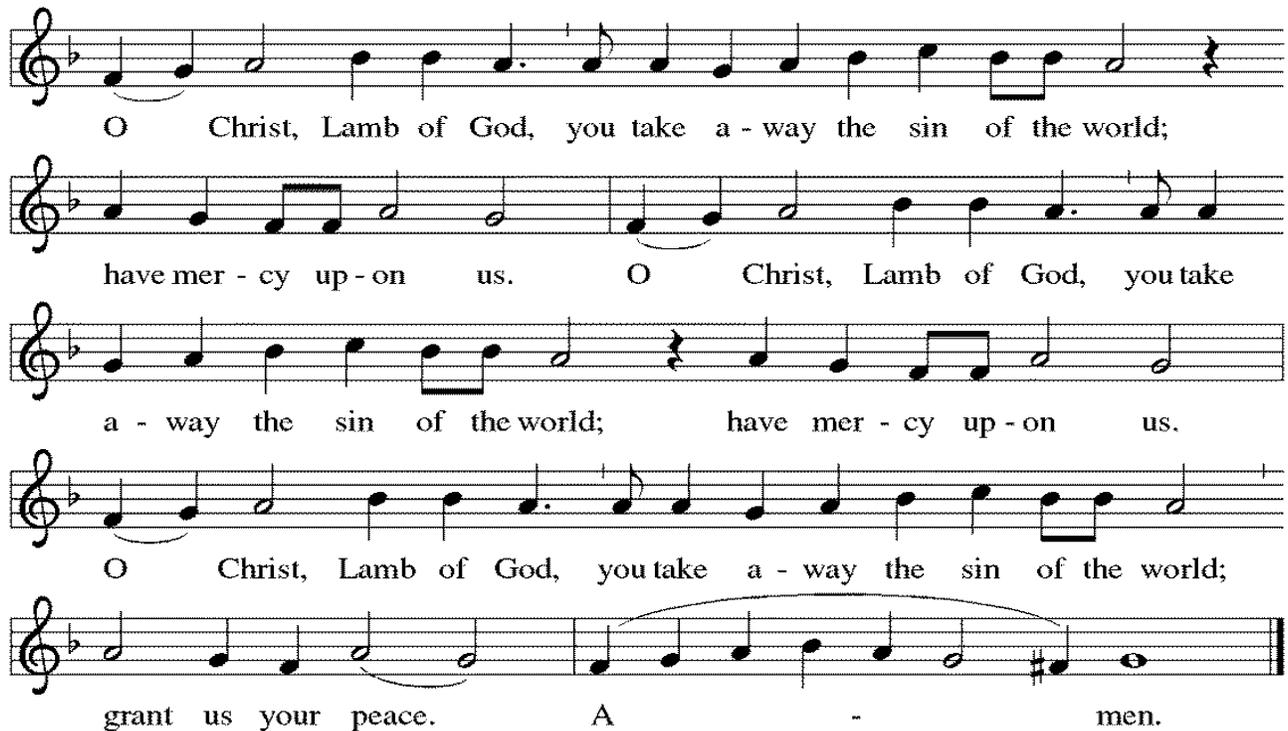
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of pow - er, God of might, heav - en and
 earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is
 he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
 san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

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.

LAMB OF GOD *



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take
a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

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.

Music at Distribution – *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*
8:00 & 11:10 – Organ – arr. Robert Powell
11:10 – Hymn #623

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.

SENDING

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

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.

SENDING HYMN #618 *

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

DISMISSAL *

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

Assembly: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *

Improvisation on CWM RHONDDA – arr. J. Bert Carlson

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Dave Woodyard, 8:00 Lector & Communion Assistant
Bev Sapienza, 11:10 Lector & Communion Assistant
Jane McFadden, Organist
Samuel Owens, Cantor
Janet Perrini, Chancel Choir Director

FLOWER DEDICATION:

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

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