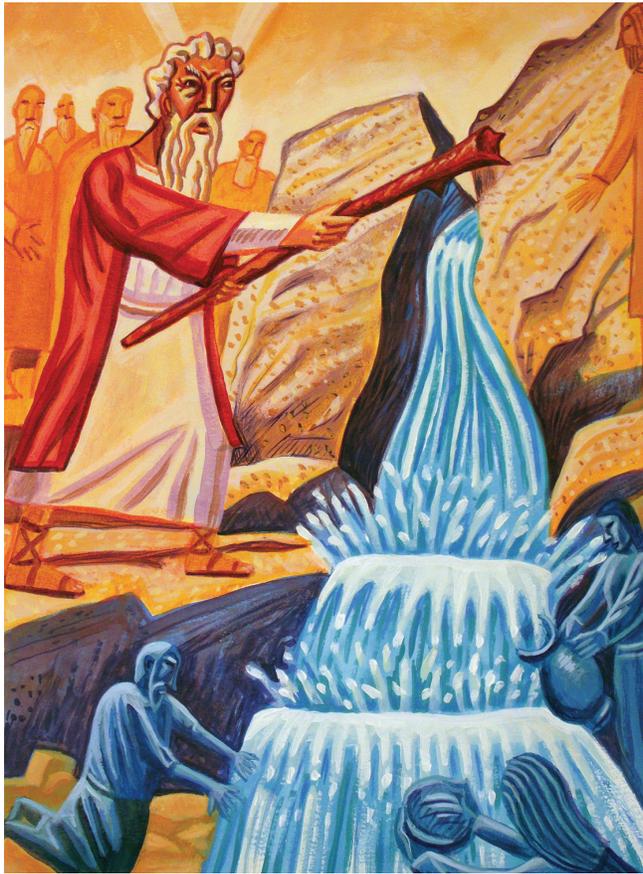


THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



Look Deep

All-knowing God,
you see deep into our hearts
and understand all that we need.
Thank you for meeting us
in the everyday messiness of our lives.
Look upon us with compassion
and mercy.
Free us from anything that blocks
a true relationship with you
and quench the spiritual thirst
we carry today.
Pour your love into our hearts anew
and guide our paths to eternal life,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 12, 2023
God Sees Our Hearts



Today's readings: Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42. The Third Sunday of Lent marks the midpoint on our journey from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week. Day by day the invitations to turn our hearts toward God and receive his gifts of mercy and love intensify. The midday encounter between Jesus and the woman of Samaria at Jacob's well amplifies the invitation extended on Ash Wednesday to "return to me with your whole heart" (Joel 2:12).

We can imagine Jesus approaching each new encounter seeking to intuit, "What does their heart need from me?" Jesus immediately perceived the deepest needs of the woman's heart and pivoted the conversation from physical thirst to spiritual thirst. His willingness to ignore the social norms

of the time and speak to her with frank familiarity reminds us that God's invitation to relationship is for everyone, no matter our past, our gender, our ancestry, our place in life.

Jesus reveals his divine purpose to this outcast woman and offers her the hope of eternal life. Our second reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, echoes this remarkable promise, "Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us" (5:5).

Throughout Lent, God summons us unceasingly. The woman at Jacob's well represents every one of us. When God looks deeply into your heart today, what spiritual thirst needs to be quenched?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 13

Look for the Prophets

Prophets are people specially chosen to be messengers of God's Word in their time and place. Our Scriptures tell story after story about the persistence of prophets and resistance to their message. Prophets often surprise us in their simplicity and ordinariness. Take a moment today to look for the prophets God has sent in the here and now. Open your heart to the message they offer. *Today's readings: 2 Kings 5:1–15b; Psalm 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Luke 4:24–30.*

Tuesday, March 14

70 × 7

Today's message cuts right to the heart. Forgiveness is hard. But it is a requirement of discipleship. Jesus calls us to forgive and forgive and forgive again. Take this command to prayer today. Whom do you still need to forgive? It might even be yourself. Write a letter to Jesus specifically naming whom you need to forgive, the reason, and ask for help to take the next step. *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 3:25, 34–43; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8 and 9; Matthew 18:21–35.*

Wednesday, March 15

Living Witnesses

Pope Francis reminds us that “all of us are called to offer others an explicit witness to the saving love of the Lord” (*The Joy of the Gospel*, 121). No matter our occupation or place in life, we are first and foremost teachers of our faith. We teach with our words, but even more through our actions, gestures, and choices. Our ultimate purpose is to allow our life to speak the faith we carry within. This is how we give glory to God. *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5–9; Psalm 147:12–13, 15–16, 19–20; Matthew 5:17–19.*

Thursday, March 16

Listen to My Voice

The Lord commands, “Listen to my voice” (Jeremiah 7:23). The psalmist echoes, “If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95:7–8). The voice of the Lord that comes to us daily through the season requires our openness. While serious, challenging, and straightforward, our Lord clearly speaks the path of life for us. He tells us how to live, how to love, how to pray, how to give, how to forgive. Do you allow his voice to guide your life? Take these thoughts to prayer. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 7:23–28; Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 11:14–23.*

Friday, March 17

St. Patrick

Patrick and his monks ministered to the people of Ireland in the early fifth century. The monks based their spirituality on that of St. Jerome and St. Augustine, who affirmed that no person can walk without a guide. The monks practiced an early form of confessional counseling, inviting people to acknowledge their sins and repair the conduct of their Christian lives. This week marks the midpoint of Lent. How are you doing toward creating a clean heart? There is still plenty of time before Easter to seek the sacrament of reconciliation and make needed adjustments in daily choices. *Today's readings: Hosea 14:2–10; Psalm 81:6c–8a, 8bc–9, 10–11ab, 14 and 17; Mark 12:28–34.*

Saturday, March 18

Cultivate Humility

Humility is a virtue that exudes from our very being. The virtue is conveyed with our eyes, with our demeanor, and with our spirit, even before words reveal our true selves. A spirit of humility is cultivated through a life of gratitude for the blessings we have received and with sincere awareness of our dependence upon the generous giver of those blessings. There is always room to grow so we call upon the words of the psalmist in our daily prayer and ask for a humble spirit. *Today's readings: Hosea 6:1–6; Psalm 51:3–4, 18–19, 20–21ab; Luke 18:9–14.*

