



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

*The Lutheran Church-
Missouri Synod*

1308 Whitley Rd.
Keller, TX 76248

**Sunday School &
Adult Bible Class**
9:30am

Sunday Worship
8:00am, 10:45am

CHURCH OFFICE
(817) 431-2345

Rev. Thomas Chryst
Senior Pastor

Rev. Brennick Christiansen
Assistant Pastor

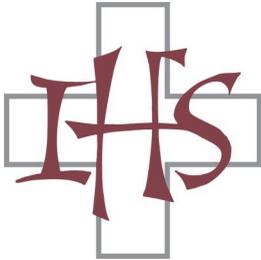
CLASSICAL ACADEMY
(817) 431-5486

www.messiahkeller.org

www.mlcatexas.org



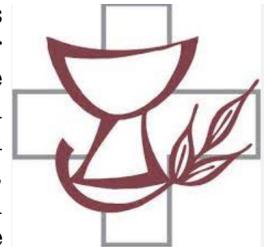
FOR OUR VISITORS....



Welcome! We encourage you to follow along with either the printed service, or with the hymnal. The page numbers for the hymnal are posted at the front of the sanctuary and on the next page. We realize it can take a while for newcomers to become familiar with our liturgy, so please feel free to ask someone near you for assistance—he or she would be happy to help.

We love children in our church! But if your little one gets fussy you may use the **cry room** that is located at the north end of the hallway behind the sanctuary on your right. You are able to see and hear the worship service from there. We also have "**Quiet Bags**" available for children to use during the service. Please ask an usher or elder if you need assistance. The Quiet Bags are returned after the service.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated in our services today. In this supper, our Lord Jesus Christ graciously feeds the humble sinner with His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Scripture clearly teaches that anyone who eats and drinks the body and blood of Christ without discerning that body and blood receives a judgment rather than a blessing from God (1 Cor. 11:29). Therefore, out of a Christian concern for souls, we require a thorough instruction in the teachings of the Lutheran Church before participating in this Sacrament. Participation at the altar is also a testimony of unity of faith with all others who partake (1 Cor. 10:17). Since unity at the altar presupposes unity in doctrine and confession (Acts 2:42), we kindly request that **only those who are in confessional fellowship** with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod participate. This includes active members in good standing of all sister Missouri-Synod congregations.



We recognize that **Closed Communion** is a sensitive issue for many and have a brochure to explain it more thoroughly. It is available in the narthex or from an usher. If you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to speak with our pastor. However, **we welcome** both children and adults who are not communicant members of the Lutheran Church to come to the altar during communion for a pastoral blessing. Please indicate the request for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.



Follow the QR code to visit our "**Virtual Guestbook**" and tell us about yourself and your visit with us.

This bulletin is available in large print upon request.

Divine Service—Setting Three—LSB 184

Hymns:

823, 615, 716

Hymns During Distribution:

617, 421

Sermon Title:

“Water Welling Up to Eternal Life”

Scripture:

John 4:5-42

Prelude:

ES WOLLE GOTT UNS GNADIG SEIN (“May God Bestow on Us His Grace”)

settings by Paul Bouman and Benjamin T. Culli

WENN WIR IN HOCHSTEN NOTEN SEIN (“When in the Hour of Deepest Need”)—J. S. Bach (BWV 641)

Postlude:

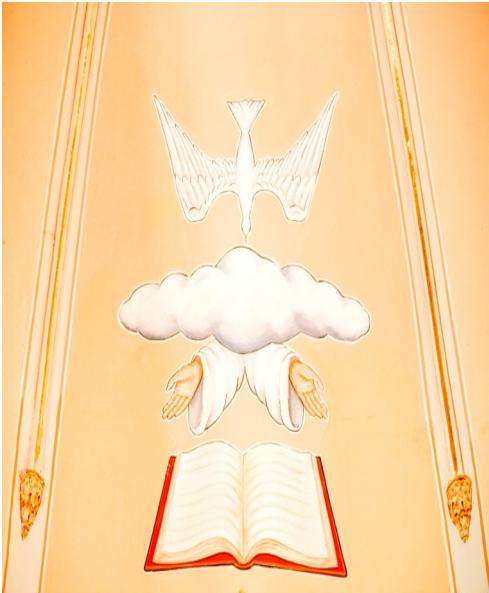
“Miniature no.5,” by David Maxwell

[10:45AM]: Anthem—*“Hear My Prayer,”* by Moses Hogan.

Hymn of the Day: 615 When in the Hour of Deepest Need, , st. 2 & 4 choir only

Psalms 95—*The Venite*—in bulletin, beneath the Introit

Psalms 119—see center page of bulletin



We Worship the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Spirit and Truth of His Gospel

Though the Lord had brought them out of Egypt, “*all the congregation of the people of Israel*” grumbled against Him because “*there was no water for the people to drink*” (Ex. 17:1). Despite their quarreling, the Lord graciously provided for them. He did not strike the people for their sins, but by the hand of Moses He struck the rock instead and brought forth water for the people. In the same way, living water flows from the pierced side of Christ at “*about the sixth hour*” (John 4:6; 19:14), when He is lifted up on the cross for the sins of the world. He is “*the gift of God*” (John 4:10), the well from which the Holy Spirit is poured out and becomes in His people “*a spring of water welling up to eternal life*” (John 4:14). By this grace in which we stand, being at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, we “*worship the Father in spirit and truth*” (John 4:23). “*We rejoice in hope of the glory of God*” because “*God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us*” (Rom. 5:2, 5).

Serving in God’s House Today

		8:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
Organist: Miguel Ruiz			
Altar Guild: Linda Beecroft Linda Phillips Brenda Thowe Laurie Ward	Head Elder:	Martin Littmann	Dale Addink
	Head Usher:	Chris Nietenhoefer	Paul Cigainero
Counters: Herbert Herrmann Cathy Keto	Acolytes:	Jaxon Kirby	Christian Hernandez Seth Ruiz
	Crucifer/ Altar	Cory O’Dell	Nathan Munoz

Introit *Psalm 84:1–5, 10–12; antiphon: v. 5*



*Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.*

How lovely is your dwelling place,*
O LORD of hosts!

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD;*

my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,*

at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house,*

ever sing- ing your praise!

Blessed are those whose strength is in you,*
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
**For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.***

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house
of my God**

than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and honor.*

No good thing does he withhold
from those who walk up- rightly.

O LORD of hosts,*

blessed is the one who trusts in you!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.*

***Psalm:** The *Venite* (Psalm 95) *music can be found
on LSB p.220*

**ALL: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of
our salvation!**

**Let us come into his presence with
thanksgiving;**

**let us make a joyful noise to him with
songs of praise!**

**For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.**

**In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.**

Women: The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

Men: For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

*Choir: Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts, as at
Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the
wilderness,
when your fathers put me to the test
and put me to the proof, though they had
seen my work.*

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and
will be forever. Amen.**

***Service Note:** In addition to the *introit* and *gradual*, our tradition also appoints a chapter or pericope from the Psalms to every liturgy that may be sung between the readings. Psalm 95 is appointed this week, so in addition to our journey through the entire chapter of Psalm 119 throughout the season of Lent, we will sing Psalm 95 this morning using the familiar musical setting found in our *Matins* liturgy. However, this setting skips two verses from that chapter, and today they have been added back in, to be sung by the choir or soloist, before we conclude with “Glory be to the Father...” Be sure to note which verses are sung by the choir/soloist, men, and all.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

TODAY 03/08 - 8:00AM - DIVINE SERVICE—STREAMING LIVE
- 9:30AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL—STREAMING LIVE
- 10:45AM - DIVINE SERVICE
12:15PM SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING - VOTING ON CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

MONDAY 03/09 - 9:30AM - BRAILLE WORKSHOP
- 6:00PM - SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
- 6:30PM - ALTAR GUILD MEETING

TUESDAY 03/10 - 9:30AM - JOY GROUP BIBLE STUDY
- 7:00PM - CONFIRMATION III

WEDNESDAY 03/11 - 6:00PM - LENTEN MIDWEEK MEAL - FELLOWSHIP HALL
- 7:00PM - MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE

THURSDAY 03/12 - 6:00PM - PASTOR'S SPRING CLASS
6:30PM LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

FRIDAY 03/13

SATURDAY 03/14 7:00AM BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING
8:30AM SWADDLING CLOTHES

Midweek Lenten Services & Meals "The Twelve Apostles"

This year our Lenten Midweek Vespers services will take a closer look at the Twelve Apostles. Each week, we will consider two of the Twelve. Through their lives, the ups and downs, their questions and stories, we will draw closer to Christ and prepare to observe Holy Week and Easter.

Evening Meal at 6pm, Vespers at 7pm:

March 11

Philip and Nathanael

(Meal Hosted by Member, Served by MLC Youth)

March 18

Thomas and Matthew

(Spring Break—No Meal)

March 25

James, Son of Alphaeus and Jude

April 2: Maundy Thursday

Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot

(7pm Divine Service - No Meal)

Collect of the Day

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Dear Messiah Church Family,

The season of Lent is upon us! As we prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the Paschal Feast with joy, may God draw us ever deeper toward him in repentance and faith in Christ.

I wanted to share a few notes about the Lenten season this year at Messiah.

First of all, "Psalm 119". You might know that Psalm 119 is the longest chapter of the Bible. But perhaps you don't know that it is also an "acrostic". Each of the 22 sections is distinguished by a key word corresponding to a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It would be sort of like if we had a song that went, "A is for apple, B is for bear... etc."

This Lent, we are endeavoring as a congregation to sing through all 22 sections of Psalm 119, two at a time, beginning with Ash Wednesday. We do this also with a refrain also drawn from the psalm, perhaps its most famous verse, ***"Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path..."***

Second, we are introducing a "new to us" service this year for Holy Week, although it is a very ancient order, the **"Easter Vigil"**.

In the past, Messiah has observed Holy Saturday with a "prayer vigil" which has its roots very roughly in the ancient "Easter Vigil". And while we will still have the sanctuary available for prayer throughout the day, there's no need to sign up for specific slots. In the past we've concluded the day with a service of "Corporate Confession and Absolution" which we will now integrate into the Maundy Thursday liturgy.

But what is new to us this year, the Easter Vigil, is traditionally the first service observing the resurrection of our Lord. The service begins at sunset (7:30pm) outside the building with a lit fire, and has many other meaningful features. While it is also a new service to me, personally, I know it is a favorite of many congregations that offer it. And it comes with the recommendation of the Lutheran Service Book - Altar Book, the companion to our hymnal, from which it is drawn.

For a fuller explanation of the traditional observance of the "Triduum", **please see Pastor Christiansen's recent article on the following page.**

Finally, we are still having an Easter Breakfast this year on Easter Sunday, but will keep the regular 8am and 10:45 service times. We've found there has been too much down time between services in recent years. Thanks to those who are already hard at work making preparations for this special day.

A blessed Lent, Holy Week and a joyous Easter to you all.

In Christ,

Pastor Chryst

Holy Week & The Triduum Sacrum

The Church views Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil as *one continuous service*: **The Triduum Sacrum** ("The Sacred Three Days" in Latin). These three days are seen together as the three days of Jesus' death and resurrection, ending on the third day: the Resurrection of Our Lord!

Maundy Thursday is celebration of the Lord instituting His own Body and Blood under the bread and wine for Christians to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of their sins. The first word in "Maundy Thursday" should not be pronounced like "Monday Thursday" but is a reference to the Latin word *mandatum*: "command." Jesus' new commandment, "Take eat!", shows us that by receiving of the Lord's Body and Blood, all people will know who the Lord's disciples are (Matthew 26:26-29 & John 13:34-35). This is the institution of the divine service for the Church to celebrate for all time. Maundy Thursday ends with the stripping of the altar, just as Our Lord Jesus was stricken, smitten, and afflicted on the way to the cross.

Good Friday brings contemplative prayer and a restrained yet joyful focus on the crucifixion of Jesus: God offered Himself up as the once-for-all sacrifice, as fulfillment of the Old Testament priest and also sacrificial lamb. The **Tre Ore** is the chief reflection on the sufferings, wounds, cross, and death of Jesus Christ. It includes the Passion reading from St. John, the reproaches of Jesus against His people, and the veneration of the cross. The **Tenebrae** is a service done in darkness with only a few candles, and it is a targeted look at the seven last sayings of Jesus on the cross. The Tenebrae ends with the *strepitus*, the loud noise indicating the nails through Jesus' hands and feet into the cross and also indicating the closing of Christ into the tomb.

Easter Vigil is a beautiful confession and finish to the Triduum Service, often taking place late on Saturday night. Since God created the heavens and the earth, calling "evening and morning" as "the first day", the Church has observed that the day starts at sundown (i.e. evening, not morning). Thus, Christmas Eve is really the same day as Christmas Day. All Hallow's Eve is the same as All Saints Day. The Maundy Thursday service is the same as the Good Friday Tre Ore (since the next day does not start until Good Friday at sundown). Likewise, Easter Vigil is the evening before Easter Sunday.

With the Easter texts and the Lord's crucifixion in view, the real height of the service is the Lord's Supper announced with the ancient versicle: "Alleluia! He is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This is the place and time when the first proclamation of Christ's resurrection is given. The Service is comprised of six parts: (1) Service of Light, (2) Service of Readings, (3) Service of Holy Baptism, (4) Service of Prayer, (5) Service of the Word, and (6) Service of Holy Communion. While Maundy Thursday moves from light into darkness, and both Tre Ore and Tenebrae are done in darkness, the historical confession of the Vigil is a movement from darkness into light!

This year at Messiah, we will observe this three-day service beginning with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday (Tenebrae Vespers), and the Saturday Easter Vigil!

THE HOUSEHOLD AT PRAYER

Make prayer a daily habit for your family. Do as much of this as is helpful.
Gather together in one place. Set aside all distractions as best as you are able.
Before or after meal works well. The most important part is reading the Bible.

1. The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.
In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
2. Sing or speak the hymn, introit, and/or psalm. Start with the first stanza.
3. Read aloud the appointed scripture for the day using the Daily Lectionary reading from LSB 299-304, or as found in the Treasury of Daily Prayer.
4. The Head of Household may give instruction/ ask questions on the scripture reading.
Ask basic questions: "What is this?" and "what did it say?", Q & A for Youth.
5. Recite or quiz one another on the weekly verse and Catechism passage.
6. Confess Apostles' Creed together.
7. Pray the Lord's Prayer and Collect of the Day. Also pray for others (see prayer list in bulletin).
Include prayers for family and friends, ourselves, upcoming events and plans.
8. Sing or say the following, then go joyfully to your work or to rest:
Let us || bless the Lord.
Thanks | be to God.

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

What is the Seventh Commandment?

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

What is the Eighth Commandment?

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

READINGS:

Mon:-Solomon's Death and the Revolt against Rehoboam - 1 Kings 11:41-12:19

Tue: The House of Jeroboam and the Northern Kingdom - 1 Kings 14:1-20

Wed: The House of Rehoboam and the Southern Kingdom - 1 Kings 14:21-31

Th: King Ahab and the Drought - 1 Kings 16:29-17:7

Fri: Old Testament Reading—Isaiah 42:14-21

Sat: New Testament Reading—John 9:1-41

HYMNS:

581 1, 8, 9 "These Are the Holy Ten Commands"

420 1, 3, 7 "Christ, the Life of All the Living"

425 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Please keep in your prayers...

The family of Janet Hazlehurst, in the death of Janet this past Sunday, March 1st.

Bruce Lage, who is recovering from spinal surgery.

John DiCesare, nephew of Bruce Lage, who has been diagnosed with brain cancer and lung cancer.

Marilyn Curry, who is recovering from surgery.

Nikki McLeroy, mother of Meredith Sifford, who is having spinal surgery on Monday.

We continue to pray for our members and loved ones battling cancer: Tim Speight, Rob Bentley, Randy Gay, Denny Knutson, Joan Beach, Linda Pancake, Rick Swender, Wayne Kirkland, Ken & Carolyn Blume, Gaelina Strader, Sarah Jarrett, Mike Vandergriff, Rev. Ernie Bernet, Janie Peter, David Grissom.

...also those with other illnesses and trials: Ashleigh Adams, Ron Busse, Marilyn Kivit, Brian Cade's mother, Abby Carpenter, Peggy Wahlstedt, Ron Klingbeil, Lief Stratmoen, Karen Shrum, Vicky Krolczyk, Matt Hinde, Lee Masoian, Alli Burk, Amy Lyon, the Lewis family, Chelsea Lage, Grant Smith, William Johnstone, Marlene Eaton, Kris Carter, Wes Liles, Mary Lowry, Patsy Smith, Shelby Renfro, Connie Worley Ramsey, Brooke Lage, The Lowry Family, Sandy McDougal, Jacob Brewer.

...and those who are unable to worship with us regularly: Susan Copen, Carolyn Blume, Don & Marilyn Curry, LaVina Goedecke, Ron and Barbara Busse, Ronald and Brenda Patterson, Marvin Wilken.

...all of our college students in and out of state: Ashley Brewer, Jacob Brewer, Colby Carter, Seminarian David Christensen, Maranda Crutchfield, Dorian Crutchfield, Paul Hedman, Ethan Johnson, Cole O'Dell, Ryan O'Dell, Clara O'Neil, Daniella Osorio, Helena Phillips, Aidan Richmond, Davis Richmond, Mia Salgado, Max Tonniges, Charlie Umayam, Audrey Weber, Emily Weber, Morgan Chryst, Matthew Palmer.

We remember all those serving our country, particularly our members and loved ones in the military: Carly Schwarzenburg, Jesus Aranda, Hannah Kajer, Nicolas Towers, Tony Bourassa, Tyler Burk, David Cantrell, Cassie Gessling, Joseph Kajer, Seth Kirch, Andrew Latham, Andrew Lowry, Hannah Pinkston, Brandon Towers, Frank Wilde, Chaplain Peter J. Williams.

We also pray for...

- Our Braille ministry, that the Word will continue to reach the blind or visually impaired around the world.
- Messiah's educational ministry, especially our Academy, Preschool, Sunday School, and our Catechumens.
- Fellow Messiah members, married couples and children, young couples, singles, Pastor Chryst, and Pastor Christiansen.
- The voters, church council, and leaders of Messiah Church and School as they deliberate on the work the Lord has given His people to do.
- Our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world being persecuted for their faith.
- The spread of the Gospel around our nation and world and the work of our missionaries and relief workers.
- Rev. Dr. Michael Paul and his work in Taiwan.
- The Swaddling Clothes ministry and those who come seeking assistance.
- Those studying at seminary, including David Christensen (4th Year), Tanner Sawall (4th Year), Abram Egger (1st Year), and Vicar Peter Williams, as they prepare to serve in the Holy Ministry.
- Prayers for peace in the Middle East and Ukraine.

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Financial Secretary: financial.secretary@messiahkeller.org
Church Office: churchoffice@messiahkeller.org
Church Office Administrator: linda.pinkston@messiahkeller.org
MLCA Hours: Mon-Fri, 7:30am—3:30pm.
Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm



Reminder that there is a Special Voters Meeting today, March 8, 12:15pm to vote on Proposed Constitution and Bylaws. A reminder that only voters may vote.



Lutheran High School of Kansas City will be visiting us for a performance on Saturday evening, **March 14th, at 7:00PM**. They will also be joining us for service on Sunday morning, the 15th. In support of their performance, Messiah needs to host approximately 30 students overnight on the evening of the 14th, in male and female groups of 3-4. We have some host families signed up, but we need 2 more families to serve as hosts! If you're willing and able to host some students, contact the church office, or sign up at the link below.

<https://tinyurl.com/2s446xpe>



A Life Thought in the Church Year for March 8 (Lent 3): The world tells us to avoid suffering at all costs, even justifying murder (abortion, suicide, assisted suicide) on the grounds that death can be used to avoid further suffering.

However, St. Paul reminds us that instead of trying to avoid suffering through death, we “can rejoice in our sufferings” (Romans 5:3), knowing that God uses our suffering to increase our hope in Him and bring us to everlasting glory. Therefore, when suffering comes, “let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker (Psalm 95:6), entrusting ourselves into the hands of the One who “died for us” (Romans 5:8).



Exodus 17:3 - “But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?’” Even the Israelites, who saw miracles with their own eyes, fell into unbelief and fear. From this distance we can see how foolish their worry is. How foolish will our worries appear from the distance of eternity? The Lord cared for them, and He will care for us.



KARAOKE FOR CHRISTIAN HYMNS You can sing hymns like “The Angel Gabriel,” “Silent Night,” “This Joyful Eastertide,” “Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest,” “The Day of Resurrection,” and more. Lutheran Public Radio has produced YouTube videos of more than 55 hymns featuring the Lutheran Public Radio Choir.

Visit lutheranpublicradio.org/karaoke to sing along!



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: Last Sunday: 8:00am: 91 10:45am: 126 Total: 217
Sunday School: 106 **OFFERINGS FOR THE WEEK: \$ 22,043.84** (includes online giving to Gen. Fund)

WEEKLY OFFERINGS NEEDED TO FUND THE CURRENT YEAR BUDGET: \$ 19,549.00

You may use this QR code for your convenience if you would like to give to Messiah. It will direct you to our Vanco System for electronic giving.



About the Cover

The parched-desert complaints of the Israelites were coupled with their desire to strike Moses with stones. However, the Lord had Moses strike a rock to provide the Israelites with water during their journey. Jesus, the rock of our salvation, was struck on His way to die on the cross for us. It was through His death on the cross that He poured out the waters of eternal life and won forgiveness for us. His water quenches our thirsty souls with God's abundant life and sustains us on this side of heaven and into eternal life.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Epistle: Romans 5:1-8

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Holy Gospel: John 4:5-26

⁵[Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given

to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus 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." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."