



Lent

OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 15, 2020



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027
425-392-4169

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

GREETING

PM: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. Merciful God,

C: 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

WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING AND SONG.

READING

Exodus 17:1-7

¹From 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. ²The 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?" ³But 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?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The 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. ⁶I 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. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 95

AM: ¹Come, let us sing ¹to the Lord;

C: let us shout for joy to the rock of ¹our salvation.

AM: ²Let us come before God's presence ¹with thanksgiving

C: and raise a loud shout to the ¹Lord with psalms.

AM: ³For you, Lord, ¹are a great God,

C: and a great ruler a- ¹bove all gods.

AM: ⁴In your hand are the caverns ¹of the earth;

C: the heights of the hills are ¹also yours.

AM: ⁵The sea is yours, | for you made it,

C: and your hands have molded | the dry land.

AM: ⁶Come, let us worship | and bow down,

C: let us kneel before the | Lord our maker.

AM: ⁷For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand.

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

AM: ⁸"Harden | not your hearts,

C: as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah | in the desert.

AM: ⁹There your ancestors | tested me,

C: they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.

AM: ¹⁰Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,

C: 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my ways.'

AM: ¹¹Indeed I swore | in my anger,

C: 'They shall never come | to my rest.'"

THE GOSPEL

John 4:5-42

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

⁷A 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.)⁹The 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.)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 no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴but 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."¹⁵The 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."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."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 have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."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 seeks such as these 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" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷Just 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?” ²⁸Then 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?” ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

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

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

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

God Is for Everyone, Even Samaritans

Pastor Jim Kruse

I grew up at a time when there was a proliferation of newspapers and magazines targeting young people. In any given magazine, you could often find a line drawing of an everyday scene out of life, or a cartoon picture, being used as a filler here and there. And one of those pictures that would simply say above or below it, “What is wrong with this picture?”

From a child’s perspective, at first glance, it always looked like there was nothing wrong. Everything was as it appeared to be. But then, the harder you looked, the more you focused on the little details of the drawing, little by little things started to look strange. Maybe there would be tools hanging from the branches of a tree instead of fruit. Or maybe there would be a mouse at the end of the leash instead of a dog. Or all the windows of the house are bricked up. Or a boy would have his pants on backwards. Stuff like that. It was great fun trying to figure out everything that was wrong.

The Gospel for today, the story of Jesus and the Samaritan women at the well, is a story that makes me think about those childhood pictures. “What is wrong with this picture?”

To the casual listener, the story of Jesus looking for a chance to quench his thirst in the middle of the day sounds innocent enough. Jesus and his disciple have been walking all morning. They are tired, they are hungry, and they are thirsty. It is time for a lunch break. The disciples have gone off to find get some food to eat. And Jesus sits down rest next to a community well. And while he is sitting there a local woman comes by with a jar to get water for her family.

The conversation between the two starts out a little stilted. Jesus uses the water that comes from the well as an illustration to talk about a spiritual thirst that all people have. It takes a

little convincing, but eventually the woman understands what Jesus is talking about. And she runs to tell the people who live in her town about her encounter with Jesus. And miracle of miracle, the town's people come to believe in Jesus as a result of her telling. It is a simple, powerful story of what it is like to be captured by God's grace.

However, a First Century hearer of this story would recognize, almost immediately, that something is very wrong with this picture. First of all, why is Jesus walking through Samaria in the first place? Many centuries earlier, instead of shunning the non-Jewish people who lived around them, the Samaritans had mixed their Jewish ethnicity, and their Jewish beliefs, with ethnicity and beliefs of the local people. The Jewish people of Jesus' day did not interact with Samaritans. In fact, they traveled around Samaria in order to avoid them.

Secondly, as his disciples will later wonder, why is Jesus speaking with a woman at all. Men did not publicly address women they did not know. So this person is both a Samaritan and a woman. And Jesus is risking his reputation by even being there, let alone engaging in conversation with her.

It is also odd that this woman is coming to the well all alone in the middle of the day. Customarily, the women gathered to draw the family water first thing in the morning. The collection of water is the primary social event of the day. It is the chance to share the news and catch up on the ongoing saga of their lives. Clearly this woman lives her life, either formally or informally, outside of the close community of her city. And, again, Jesus shows no regard for her lowly status.

And all of this happens in front of Jacob's well. Jacob, who is also named Israel, is the ancient ancestor from which both the Jews and the Samaritans descend. He is Abraham's grandson, and through his twelve sons, the promise made to Abraham that his descendants would become a nation is fulfilled. The presence of this well has literally kept that promise alive, just as it kept Jacob and his son Joseph and their livestock alive so long ago.

By claiming to have water that is better than the water from this well, Jesus is discounting a powerful symbol of God's presence and grace over the centuries.

What starts out as a scene from everyday life, seeking a drink of water in the middle of a hot day, becomes a surprising act of grace. Jesus is demonstrating with his words and with his actions that "God is for everyone, even a Samaritan."

Jesus is putting his life and his future at great risk by acting as though the Samaritan woman has the same access to God as the rest of God's people.

Opening up the arms of God to all, as Jesus does here, is an act of love that eventually becomes intolerable to leaders of his day. He is hounded throughout his ministry, scrutinized for showing care for those deemed unworthy, challenged on his authority to preach and teach the ways of God, and plotted against as a traitor to God who must be stopped. In the end, Jesus is arrested and executed for living as though it were true that "God is for everyone."

All of us, both inside of the church and outside of the church, share in this thirst for spiritual water. It is the desire to know God, the desire to love God, and desire to be accountable with our lives to the one who brings us into being. Everyone deserves to quench this thirst with God's spiritual water.

By virtue of our baptisms into Christ we get our lives all mixed up with the Man who comes looking for a drink at Jacob's well. His life is our life. His death is our death. His work is our work. We continue to be refreshed by this spiritual water as we gather together week after week. As we remind ourselves of the grace and forgiveness that God worked out in Christ. And as we encourage one another to live out the resurrected life in a world that seems foreign to us.

The water given at this well will become "a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." And so it shall. And so it shall.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

+Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

[A brief silence.]

As we journey through this holy season of Lent:

+ Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Loving God, we remember that you are our source of life and hope.

+ We give thanks for your gifts of love and life; inspire us to be your hands and voice in your world; grant us courage to joyfully share your Good News.

We pray for all who are in need of healing and strength:

+ We hold in prayer Marilyn, Lil, Dave, Pat, David, Jean, Fran, guests of the Community Meals Program, Elija, Halle, Edith, Kat, Carl, Mark, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie.

We pray hold in prayer those affected by the COVID-19 virus.

- Grant healing for those diagnosed.
- Bring peace and comfort to the families of those who have died.
- We lift up in prayer those whose health conditions make them especially vulnerable to this virus.
- We pray for safety for medical workers, care providers, and first responders.
- We pray for those working to improve testing and those working toward a vaccine.
- We pray for our government and health organization leaders as they discern a path forward.
- We pray for those who feel anxious and worried. Ground us in facts. Center us in your love.
- We pray for our ministry leaders as they consider care-filled and creative ways to gather for worship, prayer, and fellowship. We give thanks for the grace-filled support our leaders have shown one another.

+ We lift up those experiencing anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges.

+God, you call us to care for our neighbors. Inspire our leaders and guide us to be better advocates for the sake of each member in our community - especially those who have little power and no voice.

We pray for those who are grieving:

+ Loving God, wrap your arms of love and hope around all who are experiencing any kind of loss, disconnection, or brokenness.

+ We give thanks for the medical services by Augusta Victoria Hospital, Jerusalem, for Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

For what and for whom else do the people of God pray this morning?

[Here other intercessions may be offered.]

C: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Sustain us in our journey:

+ Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

+ Open our eyes, ignite our hearts, and mobilize us to be instruments of your love, hope, and peace in the face of anxiety, violence, prejudice, fear, hate, and injustice.

+ According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PM: Let us pray together:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

SENDING: GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US INTO THE WORLD.

BENEDICTION

PM: God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

C: Amen

Emergency Pastoral Care

For emergency pastoral care, please contact
Pastor Debbie Boyce, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church at
206-265-1991 (mobile) or pastordebbie@shephillschurch.org.

Keep up with our Lenten willow branch!
It continues to grow in our sanctuary.
We'll try to provide a new photo of it each week.



Willow Cross in a Circular Bowl uses a time-honored art form to convey that our universe is rooted in Christ, who brings us into new life through his death and resurrection.

Readings for next week: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; John 9:1-41

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Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor*
Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator*
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso, *Director of Worship & Music*
Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*

Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via Connection Cards in the pews, or email office@oslcissaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

Amy Jackson healing for a broken shoulder. (Lyle & Alice Lewis)

Lyle Bentley recovering from brain surgery. (Don Robertson)

Jerry Duffee on life support. Peace for his family. (Connie Fletcher)

Marilyn Grey as she transitions to assisted living. (mother of Mark Cron)

Lil healing, discernment for her doctors. (Cheryl Neeb)

Dave Carlson a kidney donor will be found quickly.

Pat undergoing heart valve replacement. (Cheryl Neeb)

David Woods strength and comfort following a kidney cancer diagnosis. (Lyle & Alice Lewis)

Jean Stanley healing for a broken pelvis and adjustments in her life (sister-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis)

Fran for healing from a fall. (Karen Hansen)

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

Elija Del Rio 4 month old recover from open heart surgery. (Shelley Howe)

Halle Agustin neck injury. (Cheryl Hauser)

Edith healing and peace of mind. (Jan Hazelton)

Kat employment, use of her talents. (Jan Hazelton)

For all affected by the coronavirus: healing, comfort, wisdom and peace. (Karen Hansen)

Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer.

[daughter of Josh & Rachael, granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson] (Dianne Tanner)

Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces new health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: **Marian James;**

Douglas Mandt (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur;** **Katie Moeller;** **Margot Inman;** **Ken Acker** (son of Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson;** **Taufik Hidayut** (Ken Konigsmark); **Don Wilkinson** (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas** (Pr. Telyea); **Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland;** **Randi Strom;** **Jeanne Kuipers;** **Talton Johnson;** **John Pass;** **Florence Kinnune;** **Carol**

Harbolt; **Sandy Aldworth;** **Jen Winslow** (Wendy Winslow); **Larry Pruitt.**

Undergoing cancer treatment: **Amy Aldworth** (daughter-in-law of Sandy Aldworth) **Les Carlson** (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Floyd Rogers** (Connie Fletcher); **Lori Anglin** (Janet Heck); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Joe Martin** (father of Stacy Smith); **Jerry Duffee** (brother-in-law of Connie Fletcher); **Christy Williams** (Bill Bergsma); **Diane Powis** (Paul Tolo); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Tim Teodoro** (Janet Heck); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

Living with cancer: **Liz Kidd** (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson;** **Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

Expectant Mothers: **Jessica Murguia** (Cheryl Hauser); **Emily Wilson** (daughter of Ann & Larry Thomas) **Keeley Hanson** (Cheryl Leiter); **Yili Leiter** (Cheryl Leiter); **Elsa Walker** (daughter of Chuck Bachman & Wendy Winslow)

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **Jerry Duffee** (Connie Fletcher)

Members and friends serving in the military; Fire, Police and Emergency Room personnel.

Global Missions and Missionaries: For medical services by Augusta Victoria Hospital, Jerusalem, for Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. (Global Missions). **Henrik & Patty Christopherson.** Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.

