

“The **Water** that I
will give will become
in them a **Spring** of
water **Gushing** up
to **Eternal Life.**”

John 4:14



Third Sunday of Lent
seeking:
Will you give me a drink?

March 12, 2023

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536
Office: (510) 793-6285

March 12, 2023
10:00 AM 3rd Sunday in Lent
Ministers: The People of HTLC & HRLC
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

Welcome! Enter with Prayer, Worship in Awe, Leave to Serve.

Our worship services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel and our website. If you do not wish to be filmed, please do not sit in the first four pews or the last pew. Children’s Time and communion distribution are not filmed.

All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

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 . . . WORD . . . MEAL . . . SENDING

SINGING BOWL

With the help of the Spirit, look within. See what burdens may be lifted, what obstacles may be removed, what new life and promise await us.

PRELUDE: “One of These Days”

One of these days I’m gonna fly over the mountain
One of these days I’m gonna ride on the silver linin’
One of these days I’m gonna witness all I’ve been missin’
One of these days

One of these days I'm gonna do all the things that I've never done
I'm gonna finish all the races that I've run but I've never won
And I'm gonna see a million faces and recognize everyone
One of these days

Chorus:

One of these days I'm gonna see that hand that took the nails for me
One of these days I'm gonna hold the key to the mansion built for me
One of these days I'm gonna walk the streets of gold that were paved for me
One of these days I'm gonna see my savior face to face
One of these days

One of these days I gonna say just what became of me on the day
that I believed when you gave yourself to me
and I believe I will say what I would have been if you didn't save me
One of these days

And one of these days I'm gonna talk with all the saints that have gone before
And in their sandals I will walk and we will sit along the shore
And I will learn all the things that I never knew before all this and more

Chorus

One of these da-ay-ays
One of these da-ay-ays
One of these da-ay-ays
One of these da-ay-ays
One of these days I'll finally be in a place where there's no more need
No more pain and no more grief, No more foolish disbelief
And all the joy there will be when at last we finally see
One of these days

Chorus

One of these days

WELCOME

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ is with you all.

All: And also with you.

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather together—

All: the seekers, the dreamers, in hopes of seeing God.

L: We gather together—

All: the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely, in hopes of finding peace.

L: We gather together—

All: those who are thirsty and those with water to spare, in hopes of finding justice.

L: So come to the well, come to the table.

All: Come, let us worship God. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism.

P: Friends, if you are seeking grace, this moment is for you. If you are seeking growth, this moment is for you. If you are seeking honesty, this moment is for you.

All: Holy God, we tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us—easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice. Forgive us for failing to listen. Forgive us for getting caught in distractions. Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like.

P: Children of God, even when we tune God out, even when we prioritize other voices, even when we do all the talking and fail to listen, we are still held by God.

All: Our sins are forgiven. Nothing could ever separate us from God's love.

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Amazing Grace (my chains are gone)”

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind but now I see

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed

Chorus:

My chains are gone, I’ve been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures

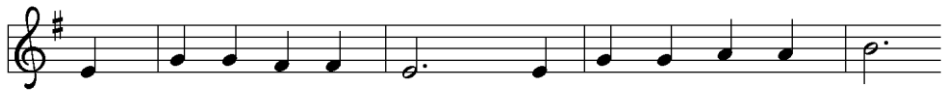
Chorus (2x)

REETING

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

All: Amen.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin.

All: 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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Be Seated

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . MEAL . . . SENDING

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: Holy God, Listening is always easier said than done. We shuffle into this space and try to quiet our minds, but the list of distractions is long. We need your help to listen.

All: We want to hear you, really hear you, so speak to us now. With hope we pray. Amen.

Reader: The first reading is Psalm ninety-five, which will be read responsively.

FIRST READING: *Psalm 95*

Reader: Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

All: Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.

Reader: For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

All: In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

Reader: The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

All: Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

Reader: For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

All: "Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.

Reader: There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

All: Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'

Reader: Indeed I swore in my anger, 'They shall never come to my rest.'

Reader: Here ends the reading.

The second reading is from Romans, chapter five, beginning with the first verse.

SECOND READING: *Romans 5:1-11*

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 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. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more

surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. 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. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

P: The holy Gospel according to John, chapter four, beginning with the fourth verse.

All: **Glory to You, O God.**

GOSPEL: *John 4:5-42*

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

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

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 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. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” 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.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

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?” Then the

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

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

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

P: The Gospel of our Living God.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME: Carmen Blair



PRE-MESSAGE SONG: *“Blessed Be Your Name”*

Verse 1:

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Verse 2:

Blessed be Your name when I’m found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name

Chorus:

Ev’ry blessing You pour out I’ll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord still I will say
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Verse 3:

Blessed be Your name when the sun’s shining down on me
When the world’s “all as it should be”
Blessed be Your name

Verse 4:

Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering
Though there’s pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Chorus

Bridge:

You give your love away
You give your love away
My heart will choose to say
“Lord blessed be Your name”

(Repeat)

Ending:

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Be Seated

MESSAGE: Pastor Barbara

Please Stand

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . MEAL . . . SENDING

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

L: Let us confess our faith with the following affirmation:

All: We believe in a God who meets us in the shadows, who welcomes our questions, who invites us to begin again. We believe that Jesus showed us a new way, a deeper faith, a more compassionate existence. We believe that all of our beginnings should return us to this foundation, and that no matter how many times we lose our way, God always welcomes us home. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: With grateful hearts, let us share a portion of the bounty God has given us.

All: We do so as an act of faith, and in support of God's work in this congregation and the world.

Be Seated

THANKFUL OFFERING

OFFERING SONG: *"More Love, More Power"*

Chorus:

More Love, More Power

More of You in my life

More Love, More Power

More of You in my life

Verse 1:

And I will worship You with all of my heart
And I will worship You with all of my mind
And I will worship You with all of my strength
For You are my Lord

Chorus

Repeat Verse 1

Verse 2:

And I will seek Your face with all of my heart
And I will seek Your face with all of my mind
And I will seek your face with all of my strength
for You are my Lord

Chorus

Please Stand

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



1 We place up - on your ta - ble, Lord, the food of
3 Ac - cept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them



life, the bread and wine, as sym-bols of our dai - ly
hum - bly from your hand. These gifts of yours for high - er



work, ac - cord - ing to your grand de - sign.
use we of - fer up as you com - mand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel.

All: Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

L: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. We pray for your church. Bless partnerships with other Christians and inter-religious dialogue. Guide the daily work of denominational and congregational leaders. Strengthen our combined witness for the sake of the gospel, that all experience your life-giving love. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for the universe. All creation teems with life, from the depths of the earth and seas to the skies above. Fill us with awe and reverence for the diversity and preservation of life. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for the nations of the world. Topple the dividing walls that separate us from our neighbors. Form us into your beloved community where diversity of gender, race, language, ability, and ethnic origin is celebrated and affirmed. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with all who are lonely, and give courage to all who are afraid. Comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness. Give them your living water always. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: God of all, hear the prayers of our heart said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to our God.

L: Let us give thanks to our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: God of the lost and the found, surely it is right for us to give our thanks and praise;

All: for day after day we look for you, and day after day we find you:

P: in the laughter of children,

All: in the sun rising over the horizon.

P: Our seeking does not go unanswered,

All: and for that we are grateful.

P: When we we're looking for reason to hope,

All: you give us rainbows after the storm, and candles flickering in the window.

P: And when we're seeking justice,

All: your life reminds us that everyone is welcome at your Table, and none shall be turned away.

P: For all these reminders we are deeply grateful. And yet, gracious God, our seeking does not stop. For even though your fingerprints are all over this world, we are not yet at your promised day. So in addition to our gratitude, we also pray today for conviction. Do not let us get comfortable with half-hearted seeking. Do not let us grow numb to the suffering of this world.

All: Make us relentless in our pursuit of justice—relentless in our consoling of the grieving, in our welcoming of the stranger, and in the feeding of the hungry.



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." With this bread and cup, we remember our Savior's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: And until that expansive and holy day, we will continue to gather at this Table.

All: Until that day, we will continue to look for you in our midst.

P: So, pour out yourself onto this bread and cup so that we might catch a glimpse of your goodness. God, we are amazed by you.

All: Your love never runs out, so bring that never-ending love here. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation of our hearts.

All: 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.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and receive Jesus,

All: our strength in the wilderness.

Be Seated

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Holy Communion is open to all.

Grape juice is white, wine is red.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Let an usher know if you need communion brought to you.

For walking communion:

You may come down the center aisle. Hold out your hand for the pastor to drop the host into, then take a cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white) from the assistant's tray, then return to your seat via the side aisles, depositing your empty cup in the provided bowls.

For communion at your seat with pre-packaged kit:

You may come down the center aisle, take a communion kit from the assistant, and return to your seat to partake. Or you may remain seated and partake of the kit you picked up at the entrance. The ushers will come around to collect empty kits.



COMMUNION SONG: *“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”*

I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord walk with me;
In my trials, Lord walk with me;
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord walk with me;
When I'm in trouble, Lord walk with me;
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.

COMMUNION HYMN: *“Stay Here”*

Stay here and keep watch with me
The hour has come
Stay here and keep watch with me
Watch and pray

COMMUNION HYMN: *“Eat This Bread”*

Eat this bread, drink this cup
Come to me and never be hungry
Eat this bread, drink this cup
Trust in me and you will not thirst

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy.

All: Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation,

P: mending broken hearts, working for justice,

All: and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation.

All: Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . MEAL . . . **SENDING**

Be Seated

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

WORDS FOR THE JOURNEY

P: As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.

All: We will seek the good in every person we pass.

P: Seek God in each of us.

All: As we seek and as we wonder, may we find what we are looking for.

P: In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us,

All: We will go now in peace. Amen.



CLOSING SONG: “*You Are My All in All*” (VBS version)

You are my strength when I am weak;
You are the treasure that I seek.
You are my all in all

Seeking you as a precious jewel
Lord, to give up I'd be a fool.
You are my all in all.

Chorus:

Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is your name.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is your name.

Taking my sin, my cross my shame,
Rising again, I bless your name
You are my all in all
When I fall down, you pick me up;
When I am dry, you fill my cup.
You are my all in all.

Chorus 2X

DISMISSAL

L: You are marked with the cross of Christ.
All: **We go forth to love and serve.**

POSTLUDE



Love. Grow. Serve.

Portions of the liturgy were adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed
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