**Sunday, March 15, 2020**

**The Third Sunday in Lent**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

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. ***Amen.***

Most merciful God,

***we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.******Amen.***

**ABSOLUTION**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

**GATHERING HYMN:** 767 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

**GREETING** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. ***And also with you.***

**KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,

let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. ***Amen.***

**GLORY TO GOD**

***Glory to God in the highest,******and peace to God’s people on earth.***

***Lord God, heavenly King,******almighty God and Father,******we worship you,***

***we give you thanks,******we praise you for your glory.***

***Glory to God in the highest,******and peace to God’s people on earth.***

***Lord Jesus Christ,******only Son of the Father,******Lord God, Lamb of God,***

***you take away the sin of the world:******have mercy on us;***

***you are seated at the right hand of the Father:******receive our prayer.***

***Glory to God in the highest,******and peace to God’s people on earth.***

***For you alone are the Holy One,******you alone are the Lord,***

***you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,***

***in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

***Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.***

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (**Pray Together) ***Merciful God, 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.***

### FIRST LESSON: 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?”

The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

### Psalm 95

1Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.  
 2**Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving**  
  **and raise a loud shout to the  Lord with psalms.**  
 3For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler  above all gods.  
 4**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;**  
  **the heights of the hills are also yours.**  
 5The sea is yours, | for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.  
 6**Come, let us worship and bow down,** **let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**  
 7For 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!  
 8**“Harden not your hearts,** **as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah  in the desert.**  
 9There your ancestors | tested me,  
  they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.  
 10**Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,**  
  **‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.’**  
 11Indeed I swore  in my anger, ‘They shall never come to my rest.’ ”

### SECOND LESSON: Romans 5:1-11

1Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5and 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.  
  6For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. 9Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. 10For 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. 11But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

### HOLY GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

5[Jesus] 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.”

The Gospel of Our Lord. ***Praise to You, O Christ.***

### SERMON: Pastor Wanda Childs

**HYMN OF THE DAY**: p.588 Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

**APOSTLE’S CREED**

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,******creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,***

***who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,***

***born of the Virgin Mary,******suffered under Pontius Pilate,***

***was crucified, died, and was buried;******he descended to the dead.***

***On the third day he rose again;******he ascended into heaven,***

***he is seated at the right hand of the Father,***

***and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,******the holy catholic Church,******the communion of saints,***

***the forgiveness of sins,******the resurrection of the body,******and the life everlasting. Amen***

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

God of living water, send your church beyond boundaries to proclaim your grace. May its witness be a source of refreshment for thirsty souls. Strengthen our voices, that all people can know and believe that Jesus is truly the savior of the world. Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

God of living water, protect from pollution or misuse all rivers, lakes, oceans, and streams. Bless the work of those who dig wells and those who advocate for access to clean water, that all people and animals have enough to drink. Hear us, O God.

***Your mercy is great.***

God of living water, open the hearts of leaders and authorities, that they hear the cries of the suffering and act with compassion toward them. Bring peace to disputed lands and bring reconciliation to people divided by race, culture, or nationality. Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

God of living water, mend the hearts of those who grieve broken relationships, whether by conflict, abuse, divorce, or death. Draw near to all who are ill (*especially*). Assure those questioning your presence in the midst of doubt or suffering. Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

God of living water, renew us in the promises of baptism. Join us together in worship, fellowship, and sharing your good news. Embolden us to serve others and to work for justice and peace. Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

God of living water, we thank you for those who endured suffering and who now boast in the glory of God (*especially*). Pour your Holy Spirit into our hearts and give us peace as we live in the hope of our salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**BLESSING**

Now is the acceptable time.

Now is the day of salvation.

Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring,

☩ bless you, unbind you,

and send you in love and in peace. ***Amen.***

**SENDING HYMN: 324** Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

**DISMISSAL** Go in Peace, Serve the Lord. ***Thanks be to God!***