

# Third Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026  
Portage Lake United Church



*Christ and the Samaritan Woman* ca. 560  
S. Apollinare nuovo (Basilica : Ravenna, Italy)

# Welcome and Announcements

*We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, source of all goodness and mercy.  
No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

- ***Courageous Faith*** We will be gathering the first four Wednesdays in Lent with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for Bread and soup followed by an Evening Prayer series on Courageous Faith. We host this week, 3/11. We will return to Good Shepherd on 3/18. Gather at 5:30 to share Soup & Bread, worship is at 6 p.m. We have soup makers for this week, if you would like to provide bread or help us host, let Pastor Peter know.
- There will be a memorial service for Lois Young this coming Saturday, March 14th 1 p.m. here at PLUC.
- ***Are there any other announcements?***



*Liturgical Color: White  
Lectionary Year A*



Presider: Rev. Peter Norland  
Musician: Susie Byykkonen  
Greeters: Lois Jambekar  
Reader: Marla Bonhoff  
Prayer Writer: Lois Jambekar  
Coffee: Biruta Lowether  
Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all



# MEDITATION

It is not easy to distinguish between doing what we are called to do and doing what we want to do. Our many wants can distract us from our true action.

*Henri J.M. Nouwen*

Silence for reflection

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

## ✦ CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise  
to the rock of our salvation!

**We have come to give thanks  
and to sing songs of praise!**

We are the people of God's pasture;  
we trust that God will bring us  
through the wilderness.

**We seek God's living water  
and praise God's holy name!**



ILLUMINATION AND GUIDANCE

78 God the Sculptor of the Mountains

D Bm Em A D

1 God the sculp - tor of the moun - tains, God the  
 2 God the nui - sance to the Pha - raoh, God the  
 3 God the dress - er of the vine - yard, God the  
 4 God the un - ex - pect - ed in - fant, God the

Bm Em A F Dm

mill - er of the sand, God the jewel - er of the  
 cleav - er of the sea, God the pil - lar in the  
 plant - er of the wheat, God the reap - er of the  
 calm, de - ter - mined youth, God the ta - ble - turn - ing

Gm7 C F E7 A

heav - ens, God the pot - ter of the land:  
 dark - ness, God the bea - con of the free:  
 har - vest, God the source of all we eat:  
 proph - et, God the re - sur - rect - ed truth:

D F#m G D

You are spark of all cre - a - tion.  
 You are fount of all de - liv - 'rance.  
 You are host at ev - 'ry ta - ble.  
 You are pres - ent ev - 'ry mo - ment.

Em D/A A7 D G D/F# Em7

We are form - less; shape us now.  
 We are sight - less; lead us now.  
 We are hun - gry; feed us now.  
 We are search - ing; meet us now.

## + PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of living water,  
amid all that parches our souls  
and drains our hearts of joy,  
we pray for refreshment and renewal.  
Fill us with your Holy Spirit  
until our delight overflows into praise  
and we cannot contain ourselves,  
running to tell your good news,  
alive with the presence of Jesus the Christ,  
in whose name we pray.  
Amen.

# ✚ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- Jesus, friend of all,  
once again, we come to you knowing  
our words have stung,  
our actions have harmed,  
and our indifference has let evil have its day.  
Our hearts yearn for you,  
our souls thirst for you,  
yet we do not imitate you in our lives.  
We scorn those who are different from us,  
and relish our own comfort.  
Once again, forgive us, O God.  
Give us your living water,  
that we might tell the world  
all you have done for us.
- We know that God is with us even in our sufferings,  
for suffering produces endurance,  
endurance produces character,  
character produces hope,  
and hope does not disappoint us,  
because God's love has been poured into our hearts.  
Thanks be to God!

# ✦ PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Greet each other with a sign of God's peace.*

Children of God, we are the body of Christ.

**By one spirit**

**we were baptized into one body.**

Keep the unity of the Spirit

in the bond of peace.

**Amen! We are bound by the love of Christ.**



# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture, reading,  
preaching and song*



***Christ and the Samaritan Woman***  
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church  
Parma, Ohio

# First Reading Exodus 17:1-7

From 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.

The 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?”

But 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?”

So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

The 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. I 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. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

# Second Reading Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, 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.

**Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God**

# ✦ HYMN Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me, GTG #438

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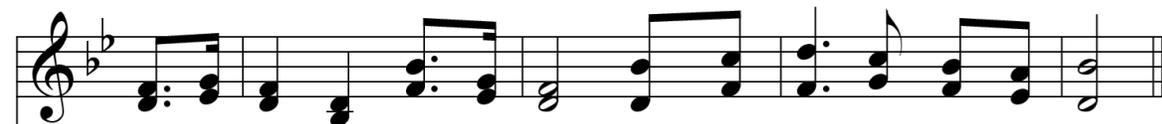
## 438 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de-mands.  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling;  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when my eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side which flowed  
Could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;  
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse from guilt and make me pure.  
all for sin could not a - tone. Thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.



Though scholars discredit the story that this hymn was written when the author found shelter under a large rock during a thunderstorm, the popular appeal of that conjecture perhaps lies in the energy of this plea and the vividness of its imagery drawn from many biblical sources.

TEXT: Augustus M. Toplady, 1776, alt.  
MUSIC: Thomas Hastings, 1830, alt.

TOPLADY  
7.7.7.7.7.7

## ✦ GOSPEL READING John 4:5-42

So he 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."

## ✚ GOSPEL READING John 4:16-26

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."

## ✦ GOSPEL READING John 4:27-42

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."

# Sermon



*Christ and the Samaritan Woman*  
First Christian Church of Pullyallup  
Pierce, Washington

# Music for Reflection

*It is Well with My Soul*, in the setting of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata,  
P.Bliss/arr. Jane La Rowe



***Moses Striking the Rock and Bringing Forth the Water***

From the Yorck Project.

Jacopo Bassano, approximately 1518-1592

Louvre Paris, France

# OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let these offerings become seeds taking root  
in love and justice.

Let these seeds become harvests of liberation for all of us.  
Let these harvests become offerings toward the slow work  
of healing and transformation,  
for our neighbor's good and God's glory. Amen.



# Take, O Take Me As I Am

215

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (D major). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line starts with a quarter note D4, followed by a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note G4. The bass line starts with a quarter note D3, followed by a quarter note E3, a quarter note F#3, and a quarter note G3. The second system also has a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line starts with a quarter note A4, followed by a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a quarter note D5. The bass line starts with a quarter note A2, followed by a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, and a quarter note D3.

D G/D Em/D A/D D G/B Asus A

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;

G A/G D Bm Em D Asus A

set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

Text and music: John Bell (b. 1949)

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# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sherry Middlemis-Brown

## PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (ECUMENICAL)

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.



***Christ and the Samaritan Woman*** ca. 1200  
Duomo di Monreale Monreale, Sicily, Italy

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

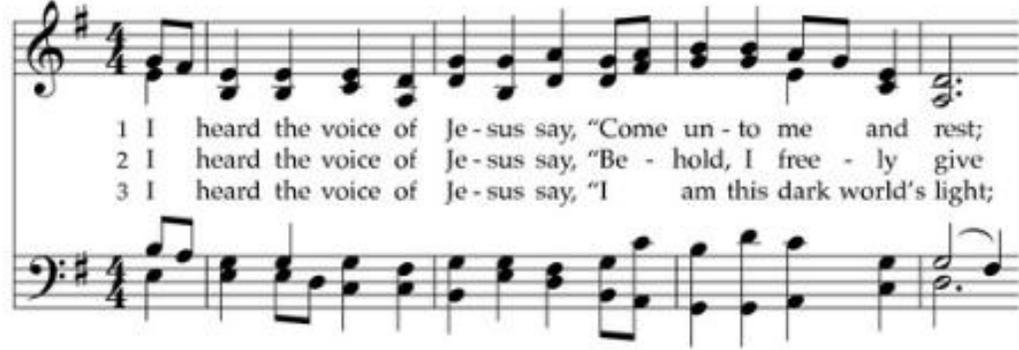


# ✦ CLOSING HYMN | I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say GTG #182

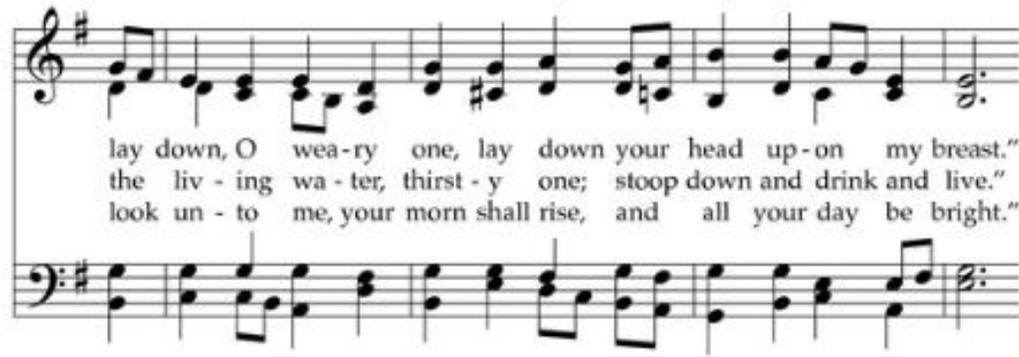
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JESUS CHRIST: LIFE

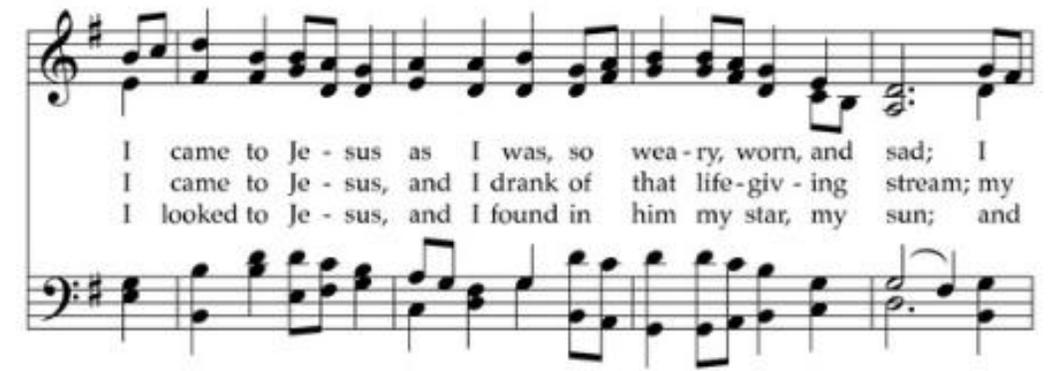
## 182 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



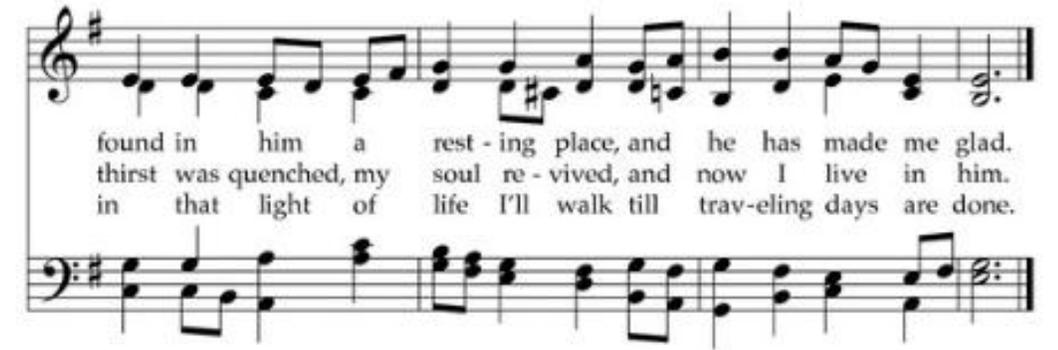
1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and



found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.  
thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
in that light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

Each stanza here pairs an invitation from Jesus with a response from the narrator. These three invitations recall how Jesus welcomed those who were heavy laden (Matthew 11:28), offered living water (John 4:10-14), and identified himself as the light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5).

# CHARGE AND BLESSING

Look around and see  
how the fields are ripe for harvesting.

As you go from this place,  
how will you tend to what has already been planted?  
What will be the seeds you sow?  
What will be the fruit you harvest?

May the God who  
Creates, Redeems, and Sustains us  
touch your life with tenderness  
hold you in a tenacious hope  
and guide your heart in courageous faith  
as you become living water in a thirsty world. Amen.



**Moses**  
John August Swanson

# POSTLUDE

*Refuge (You are My Hiding Place & From Every Stormy Wind That Blows),*  
Michael Ledner & Thomas Hastings/arr. Marilyn Ham

## MEDITATION

As you read John 4:5–42, think about the meaning of water

—its symbolic qualities, its presence in nature, and its use in human life.

How is Jesus like water?

What are the things that are most necessary in your life?

Where do you get them?

Consider contributing to a project that provides clean water (or some other necessity of life) to people in need. As you do so, pray for all the providers and recipients of this service.



*Thanks to:*

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland

Musician: Susie Byykkonen

Greeters: Lois Jambekar

Reader: Marla Bonhoff

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Coffee: Biruta Lowether

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**Portage Lake United Church**

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Rooted in the Trinity. Growing in God's Word.  
Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.