

GOSPEL CONTINUED

²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' ²⁵ 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.' ²⁶ Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' ²⁷ 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?' ²⁸ Then 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?' ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him. ³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' ³² But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' ³³ So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' ³⁴ Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.' ³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² 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 Saviour of the world.'

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

19 MARCH 2017

These readings are provided, first, so you can re-read and reflect on them during the week, and second, if you wish, to follow the readings during the service.

Exodus 17.1-7

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

Psalms 95

- ¹ O come, let us sing out to the Lord:
let us shout in triumph to the rock of our salvation.
- ² Let us come before his face with thanksgiving:
and cry out to him joyfully in psalms.
- ³ For the Lord is a great God:
and a great king above all gods.
- ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth:
and the peaks of the mountains are his also.
- ⁵ The sea is his and he made it:
his hands moulded dry land.

⁶ Come, let us worship and bow down:
and kneel before the Lord our maker.
⁷ For he is the Lord our God:
we are his people and the sheep of his
pasture.
⁸ Today if only you would hear his voice—
‘Do not harden your hearts as at
Meribah:
as on that day at Massah in the
wilderness;
⁹ ‘When your forebears tested me:
put me to proof, though they had seen
my works.
¹⁰ ‘Forty years long I loathed that generation
and said:
“It is a people who err in their hearts,
for they do not know my ways”;
¹¹ ‘Of whom I swore in my wrath:
“They shall not enter my rest.”’

Romans 5.1-11

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

John 4.5-42

⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called
Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob
had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob’s well
was there, and Jesus, tired out by his
journey, was sitting by the well. It was about
noon. ⁷ A 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.) ⁹ 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.) ¹⁰ 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.’ ¹¹ The woman said to him,
‘Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is
deep. Where do you get that living
water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor
Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his
sons and his flocks drank from it?’ ¹³ Jesus
said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this
water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ 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.’ ¹⁵ 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.’ ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call
your husband, and come back.’ ¹⁷ The woman
answered him, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus
said to her, ‘You are right in saying, “I have
no husband”; ¹⁸ for you have had five
husbands, and the one you have now is not
your husband. What you have said is
true!’ ¹⁹ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, I see
that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors
worshipped on this mountain, but you say
that the place where people must worship is
in Jerusalem.’ ²¹ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman,
believe me, the hour is coming when you will
worship the Father neither on this mountain
nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do
not know; we worship what we know, for
salvation is from the Jews.

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