Readings and Hymns
March 15, 2020
3rd Sunday in Lent (A)

Exodus 17:1-7
Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the \text{LORD} among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.

1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the \text{LORD} commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 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 \text{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 \text{LORD}, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” 5 The \text{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 quarreled and tested the \text{LORD}, saying, “Is the \text{LORD} among us or not?”

Psalm: Psalm 95
Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)

1 Come, let us sing | to the \text{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 | \text{LORD} with psalms.
3 For you, \text{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.
5 The 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 | \text{LORD} our maker. R
7 For the \text{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.
9 There 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.’
11 Indeed I swore in my anger, ‘They shall never come to my rest.’” R

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus’ death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

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.

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

[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.”

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?” 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.

28 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.

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. 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.”

39 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.”
Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

1 “Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty; drink the water I will give.
2 “Come to me, all travelers weary; come that I may give you rest.
3 “Come to me, believers burdened; find refreshment in this place.
4 “Come to me, repentant sinners; leave behind your guilt and shame.

If you knew what gift I offer, you would come to me and live.”
Drink the cup of life I offer; at this table be my guest.”
Come, receive the gift I offer, turn to me and seek my face.”
Come and know divine compassion, turn to me, I call your name.”

Refrain

Jesus, ever-flowing fountain, give us water from your well.

In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.

5 “Come to me, distressed and needy;
I would be your trusted friend.
Come and seek the gift I offer,
come, your open hands extend.”  Refrain

6 “Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;
lonely ways no longer roam.
Come and take the gift I offer,
let me make in you my home.”  Refrain
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

I heard the voice of Jesus, say, “Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus, say, “Be hold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus, say, “I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk till traveling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune
O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

1 O Jesus, joy of loving hearts, the fount of life, the light of all: from ev'ry bliss that earth
feast upon you still; we drink of you, the fount-
changing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you

2 We taste you, ever living bread, and long to

3 For you our restless spirits yearn, wher' e'er our

4 O Jesus, ever with us stay! Make all our

parts we turn, un-filled, to hear your call.
head; our thirst-ing souls from you we fill.
turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
way! Shed o'er the world your holy light.

Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, Sacred Melodies, 1815
Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus

Come with us, O blessed Jesus, with us evermore to be.

And, in leaving now thine altar, let us nevermore leave thee!

Let thy bright celestial chorus never cease the heav'nly strain;

but in us, thy loving children, come with peace, good will to reign.

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891
Music: WERDER MÜNTER, Johann Schop, 1600–1665; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb-en-e-zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt—or da-ly I'm con-strained to be;

streams of mer-cy, nev-er ces-sing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar-ive at home.
let that grace now like a fet-ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end-less glo-ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je-sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan-der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev-er to ad-ore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res-cue me from dan-ger, in-ter-posed his pre-ious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a-bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813