Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St Hastings MI 49058



Website: www.grace-hastings.org
Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI
Worship Committee e-mail: gracelutheranworshipcommittee@gmail.com

Phone: (269) 945-9414 (269) 945-2645

Pastor Ken Scheck II Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music March 15, 2020

Thirsty for Living Water

It was about noon when Jesus, "tired out by his journey," sat down at Jacob's well and said plainly to the Samaritan woman who had come to draw water, "Give me a drink" (John 4:6-7).

The story begins matter-of-factly. It's harmless enough, right? The sun burns hot, the traveler is thirsty, and there's a well to which the woman has come for her own household's needs. John tells us that Jesus' disciples were in the nearby town buying food, which highlights that Jesus and the woman were alone at the well. Still, simple as it may seem, the exchange between this woman and Jesus pleads for a closer look. Theirs is more than an encounter akin to a modern-day outdoor adventure when the water bottle is empty and we have miles to journey before arriving somewhere to refill it.

Today's story follows close on the heels of Nicodemus seeking out Jesus under cover of darkness. Like Nicodemus, this woman has questions. She wonders about Jesus' boldness: he approaches her and speaks to her, violating the cultural norms of the day which put Jewish people and Samaritans at odds with each other. She also verbally disputes with him when Jesus offers a cryptic statement about "living water" (John 4:10).

So, is it the woman's quick answers and easy banter that pull us into this story? Or is it some developing awareness of the barriers that sometimes prevent us from encountering the one who offers this "spring of water gushing up to eternal life" (John 4:14)?

The flowing stream of acceptance embodied in Jesus quenched the woman's thirst for being known, seen, and valued. In turn, her effusive joy demonstrates the power of living water for all who long for acceptance. Receiving this story, may we think of the parched places in our communities, our churches, even our own lives, that are thirsting for living water.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Please fill out our Participation Card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees. Sometimes there are additional questions on the back of the card, so don't forget to check both sides of the card.

Third Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2020

Lent is a season of preparation and renewal. The color purple has become a symbol of the extravagance of God. The music of the season reflects our need to prepare for God's forgiveness and renewal, which draws us into God's forgiving action toward humanity and all of creation.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre- Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Arise in body or spirit and face the baptismal font

Confession and Forgiveness

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.
- Amen
- A In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P God at the margins,
- We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen
- P Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of

 ↑ Christ, leading you from death into life. Amen

Gathering Hymn

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power

ELW 651 (red book)

Greeting

- P The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin through the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
- **C** And also with you.

Kyrie eleison



Prayer of the Day

- A Let us pray . . . Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin.
- **Q** 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.

Sit

First Reading 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 LORD among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.

L A reading from **Exodus**:

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?"

L 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.

²Let 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 a- \mid bove all gods.

⁴In 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.

⁶Come, 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.

¹⁰Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, 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 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.

L A reading from **Romans:**

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.

- **L** The word of the Lord.
- **⚠** Thanks be to God.



Gospel Reading John 4:5-42

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

P The Holy Gospel, according to **John.**

ఆ Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" 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." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Where do you get that living water? 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."

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." 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, "⁴God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming. 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, "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 God who sent me and to complete the work.

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.

- **P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Time

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children's sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Silence for reflection

Arise in body or spirit

Song of the Day

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

ELW 843

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

- ⚠ Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.
 - A brief silence.
- A God of living water, send your church beyond boundaries to proclaim your grace. Strengthen our voices, that all people can know and believe that Jesus is truly the savior of the world. Guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants, David and Roseanne our synod companion churches, Trinity Lutheran Church, Millersburg; Cedar Creek Bible Church, Delton; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.
- (sung) Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.
- A 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.
- (sung) Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.
- A God of living water, open the hearts of leaders and authorities, bring peace to disputed lands and bring reconciliation to people divided by race, culture, or nationality. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military: Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Alexis and Dylan Kelmer, Austin and Aaron Endsley, Carlos Garcia (Burdicks), Brandon and Stevi Kay Miller (McManaway), Brady Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas), Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls), and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads)
- (sung) Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.
- A God of living water, mend the hearts of those who grieve broken relationships, assure those questioning your presence in the midst of doubt or suffering. Draw near to all who are ill, including Gary Burdick, Penny Burdick, James Colvin, Kay Corrigan, Irene Corr, Luke Domke, Allison Domke, Denise D., Sue Eifler, Mike Fruth, Karl Golnek, Roger Greeley, Delmer Hansen, Larry Hansen, Mike Hoppe, Phyllis Hoppe, Lee Hoppe, Richard Meade, Michael Pruitt, Mike Shoemaker, Tim Sullivan, George Ulrich Jr., Jenni Ulrich, Rusty Wilkins, Cameron, Vicky, Nora, Lynnze, and Tristin; safe travel for Zach and Matthias from Europe; prayers for more servers at Grace.

- (sung) Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.
- A God of all generations, we praise you and thank you for children of all ages. From those who are days old to our oldest member here at Grace of 100 years old. We ask you to help us be open to your direction as we seek a Youth and Family Committee chair. We thank you for our interim chair.
- (sung) Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.
- A 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 now as we lift our individual prayers that are spoken aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- A God of living water, we thank you for those who endured suffering and who now boast in the glory of God. Pour your Holy Spirit into our hearts and give us peace as we live in the hope of our salvation.
- (sung) Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.
- According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.
- @ Amen.

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill out a Participation card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday morning.

Arise in body or spirit

Cre- ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and

take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un-to me the



Offering Prayer

- ⚠ Let us pray . . . Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land and you provide for our every need.
- **☑** Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. Amen

Sharing the Peace of God

- P The peace of Christ be with you.
- And also with you.

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Great Thanksgiving

- P The Lord be with you.
- **■** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **©** We lift them unto you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **■** It is right to give our thanks and praise
- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.
- **G** Amen.

Table Prayer

- P Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide
- together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.
- P You led your people Israel through the desert and provided them water from the rock.
- **We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.**
- In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord 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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection,

- **Q** we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.
- Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
- wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.
- P Through Christ all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
- @ Amen.

Lord's Prayer

- P In confidence, let us pray in the words our Savior gave us:
- Our Father in heaven, holy 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 All who are hungry, come and eat the bread of life. All who are thirsty, come and drink the cup of salvation.
- **☑** Thanks be to God.

Sit

Communion at Grace

All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.

- Pread is served by the Pastor. Wine is served from a common cup by the Assisting Minister.
- PIf you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.
- PIf you prefer wine from the *pouring chalice* in an individual cup, take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Worship Assistant. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.
- P Grape Juice is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.
- A Verbal Blessing may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.
- If you wish communion brought to you in the pew, please notify the usher.

Lamb of God



Come to the Table Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus One Bread, One Body

ELW 401 ELW 501 ELW 496

Sending of Communion Minister (*If needed*)

- A Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- Amen.

Prayer after Communion

- A Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy.
- **☑** Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

- @ Amen.

All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing.

Sending Song

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

ELW 545

Dismissal

- A Reconciled to God through Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- **☑** Thanks be to God.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, March 15 Worship Services at 8 am and 10:45 am

Nursery Available both services

Monday, March 16 Tuesday, March 17 MEF Mtg 6 pm Council 6:00 pm

Wednesday, March 18

Bread Maker

 $Lenten\ Luncheon-Noon\ /\ Hastings\ Nazarene\ Church$

Lenten Meal – 6:00 pm Lenten Service – 7:00 pm

Today's Worship Leaders

-	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Randy Teegardin	Mark Anton
Cantor	Mark Anton	Kate Watson
Lector	Jack Vos	Carol Morgan
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Sandy Mosteller
Acolyte/Crucifer		Lance Ogden
Usher	Mark Anton	Gary Golnek / Sandy Mosteller
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Volunteers	Bill and Lorraine Freedlund
Children's Church	~	Eve Wright
Table Guild	Laura Scheck	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, March 22, 2020

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Mark Anton	Anna Scheck
Cantor	Mark Anton	Vickey Argo
Lector	John Burdick	Joe Longcor
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Laura Scheck
Acolyte/Crucifer		
Usher	Dave Neeb/ Kay Marsh	Joe Longcor /Gwen Hansen
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Volunteers	Doug Neeb
Children's Church	~	Traci Wales
Table Guild	Laura Scheck	
Bread Maker	Deborah Wilke	

WE ARE PREPARED TO BE ... TSL-15

Deborah Wilke

Stewardship Information

Worshippers: 82 Weekly Giving: \$2,950.00 Budget Amount: \$4,617.93

Adult Forum will continue a study on the book of *Romans* today. Come join us in the conference room at 9:30 am.

MEF meeting tomorrow, Monday, March 16th at 6:00 p.m. If you have any proposals for the Mission Endowment Fund, please submit them today to Margaret Wood. You may place them in her mailbox here at church.

Council meets on Tuesday at 6 pm.

Lenten Noon Luncheon on Wednesday at Hastings Nazarene Church at 12 noon; at 6:00 pm we will have Sloppy Joes, Beans and Chips with the proceeds going to toward the Bell Choirs. Our worship will follow at 7 pm. Wednesday's theme is *GOD'S WILL and My Dreams*.

Put in your Order for the Pasty Sale! Deadline for orders is this Wednesday, March 18th.

Nursery Now Available at only the 10:45 worship service. Keep inviting young families to come and share in God's love.

Lenten Coin boxes can be turned in at any time. You may give them to Pastor Ken or any Outreach Committee member. Most of the boxes are "due" on Easter, after Lent is over, but you can start bringing them into the church. Money collected will be given to the ELCA Hunger program.

Mark your calendars for March 25. At the noon hour we gather at Green Street United Methodist Church with our ecumenical sisters and brothers in Christ. If you cannot come for that experience, join us at 6:00 pm. for Spaghetti, Salad and Garlic Bread followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm. Both events will have the same theme presented in different styles. This day's theme is GOD'S WILL and My Worldview. Proceeds from the dinner will go toward the Youth Gathering.

LIVING the Gospel Life is available in the Gathering area. Pick up your daily devotional for Lent provided by the Outreach Committee.

New Office hours are 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday starting tomorrow.

ACH is going to be available soon. You can use your credit card or checking account. Look for the link on our website and bulletin for more information.

SPRING CLEANING: March 21st, starting at 7am ending around 5pm; Need many, many volunteers, the more volunteers that help, the quicker the job will be completed. What needs to be completed: Dusting, wash windows, clean sinks, countertops, toilets, vacuum, sweep, mop, etc... Please sign up on volunteer list in coffee area. Bring your favorite cleaning supplies and rags.