

He made quite clear that He is also true God. The Samaritans followed some of the law of God, they accepted some of the Scripture, but not all. Jesus, tired from the journey, sought water. He asked a Samaritan woman for water. She reacted in a belligerent manner. She was speaking of her status. Jesus confronted her with her life. He knew her sin. Jesus pointed out that He should have rejected her, but He had asked her for water. Jesus spoke to her of faith as a free gift, the gift of living water. The woman was shown her sin, yet Jesus made it clear that His work of justification was a gift that was even given to her, a Samaritan and a woman. Drinking from a well, will keep us alive on a temporary basis. Drinking from the well of eternal life; worshiping Jesus, keeps us alive forever.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑤ Lord God most Holy, Who dwells in Heaven, without You there is no help and in You there is nothing to be afraid. We come to You as the Guardian and Defender of all who lift their hearts to You. In our desolation, affliction and sorrow we come before You seeking Your Eternal Mercy. We thank You for the Love of Jesus and that in His compassion and grace He freely gave Himself as the satisfaction for our sins, by giving up His perfect life as an offering for our redemption and salvation.

We thank You for the finished work of our Lord: His Holy life, His blessed example, His gracious teaching, His Loving companionship and His atoning death. With grateful hearts we thank You for the willing spirit in which He gave Himself as Your suffering Servant.

Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may have the inheritance in Your Eternal kingdom. Help us imitate the example of Christ and walk in love. Grant that as children of the heavenly light we may earnestly repent of our sins, forsake the ways of darkness and error, and follow in the paths of goodness, righteousness, and truth. Cast out all uncleanness that assails us. Fill our souls with holiness, love of Your Word, and every pure grace and virtue.

We ask You, O Lord, to guide and direct those in power in our government, that our country would be a place of peace and that righteousness would prevail. For all who are in any want of body or soul, for all of our loved ones who are in distant places, for all who have strayed from Your truth, for all who are in temptation, for all who are suffering sickness and pain, for all who mourn, we pray this day, O Lord. Pour down Your blessing on them according to their need, hear their prayers, comfort them with Your presence and surround them with Your Holy angels.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)
Unite us all in Your church on Earth and finally in Your courts in Heaven.
We pray, O Father, for these things in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ.
© Amen.

LENT THREE

Chant Tone



Introit

Blessèd are those whose strength | is in You,*
in whose heart are the highways to — Zion.

How lovely is Your | dwelling place,*
O | Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts | of the Lord;*

my heart and flesh sing for joy to the | living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may | lay her young,*

at Your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King | and my God.

Blessèd are those who dwell | in Your house,*
ever sing | ing Your praise!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy — Spirit;
as it was in the be — ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

Blessèd are those whose strength | is in You,*
in whose heart are the highways to — Zion.

(Antiphon, Psalm 84:5;
Psalm 84:1-4)

Collect of the Day

O God, Whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] — Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despis | ing the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

(Hebrews 12:2)

Verse

The hour is coming, and | is now here,*
when the true worshipers will worship the Father in | spirit and truth.

(John 4:23a)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: When we consider the perfection of Your Laws, O Lord, we realize how far we have strayed from the path which You have laid out for us. We too often loved and trusted other things and people more than You. For our transgressions we implore Your forgiveness. Send Your Holy Spirit that He may give us power to overcome our sin and that He may bless the witness of Your Church in the world, that the world may be led to know the goodness of Your Law and accept Your authority to rule and govern our lives. Only then will we see our assurance exists only in the Gospel, the authority of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE SEASON OF LENT IS THE SEASON OF SACK CLOTH AND ASHES. Only for the Sundays of Lent, do we wash our hands and face and enter into the festival of worship, for as much guilt as we feel because of our sin, we know that Jesus walked out of the grave on that first Easter Sunday Morning and became Salvation of us. We have a tremendous power because of this knowledge. The woman at the well had made her life difficult. She didn't have friends. She did her errands at the worst possible times. She had sharp answers to Jesus' request for water, she snapped at Him for even speaking to her (being a woman and a Samaritan.) Jesus broke through her caustic exterior and spoke to her heart the Word of Life. Jesus explains that He was the God of her expectations. We welcome all who have been called out by God to come and worship His Son today.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Justification by Faith

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 84:5;) Psalm 84:1-4

Psalm 84 is attributed to the Sons of Korah. Although Korah himself revolted against Moses and fell to divine judgment, the Lord allowed his heirs to continue serving Him. They led liturgical worship, writing Psalms that were chanted or sung antiphonally (back and forth among two or more individuals or groups). This Psalm speaks of the pleasures and benefits of public worship, and ties to the woman at the well, who publicly proclaimed the appearance of the Immanuel.

COLLECT

We pray that those who have gone astray will return to the truth of God's Word. This prayer was added to our Propers in 2006 to more accurately reflect the theme of the Bible lessons.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Exodus 17:1-7

This lesson would fit with the Gospel of Lent One (the temptation of Jesus.) The, "chosen" people were in the wilderness without water and they failed. They argued with Moses (who accuses them of "testing God"—Jesus mentioned it in the second temptation.) In our Gospel Lesson Jesus called Himself Living Water. Our life is in the hands of God. When we complain that life isn't fair we are tempting God to show us how unfair it can get. Consider how fair it was for Jesus to have died on the cross because of our sin.

GRADUAL—Hebrews 12:2

Hebrews chapter 12 compares the greater wonder of Heaven to the lesser wonder of our place here on Earth, and encourages us to look to Jesus for patience and perseverance.

EPISTLE LESSON—Romans 5:1-8

In Romans chapter 4 Paul set up the case for justification by faith, using Abraham as his example. In chapter 5, Paul leads us to understand that our personal justification is also by faith, the faithfulness of Jesus imputed to us as faith. "While we were still sinners Christ died for us." Paul was acquainted with suffering. His analysis of suffering as ultimately leading to the knowledge of salvation is rather interesting.

VERSE—John 4:23

This is an important statement taken from our Gospel Lesson.

GOSPEL LESSON—John 4:5-30, 39-42

The lessons for the Season of Lent follow Christ as He walked toward His cross. His interactions with those around Him show that He is fully human.