

## Week of March 8, 2015

### SUNDAY

#### Reading 1 Ex 17:3-7

In those days, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? a little more and they will stone me!" The LORD answered Moses, "Go over there in front of the people, along with some of the elders of Israel, holding in your hand, as you go, the staff with which you struck the river. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink." This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel. The place was called Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled there and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD in our midst or not?"

#### Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.  
Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;  
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.  
R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.  
Come, let us bow down in worship;  
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.  
R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.  
Oh, that today you would hear his voice:  
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as in the day of Massah in the desert,  
Where your fathers tempted me;  
they tested me though they had seen my works."  
R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

#### Reading 2 Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

Brothers and sisters:  
Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God.

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Verse Before the Gospel cf. Jn 4:42, 15  
Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world;  
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

#### Gospel Jn 4:5-42

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" —For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.—Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who 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 do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not 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 and said to him, "I do not have a husband." Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying, 'I do not have a 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 can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people 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 the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one speaking with you."

At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, "What are you looking for?" or "Why are you talking with her?" The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?" They went out of the town and came to him. Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Could someone have brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'In four months the harvest will be here'? I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest. The reaper is already receiving payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice

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together. For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work."

Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me everything I have done." When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

Or Jn 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

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"I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people 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 the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking with you."

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## MONDAY

### Reading 1 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab

Naaman, the army commander of the king of Aram, was highly esteemed and respected by his master, for through him the LORD had brought victory to Aram. But valiant as he was, the man was a leper. Now the Arameans had captured in a raid on the land of Israel a little girl, who became the servant of Naaman's wife. "If only my master would present himself to the prophet in Samaria," she said to her mistress, "he would cure him of his leprosy." Naaman went and told his lord just what the slave girl from the land of Israel had said. "Go," said the king of Aram. "I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman set out, taking along ten silver talents, six thousand gold pieces, and ten festal garments. To the king of Israel he brought the letter, which read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy."

When he read the letter, the king of Israel tore his garments and exclaimed: "Am I a god with power over life and death, that this man should send someone to me to be cured of leprosy? Take note! You can see he is only looking for a quarrel with me!" When Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his garments, he sent word to the king: "Why have you torn your garments? Let him come to me and find out that there is a prophet in Israel."

Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. The prophet sent him the message: "Go and wash seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will heal, and you will be clean." But Naaman went away angry, saying, "I thought that he would surely come out and stand there to invoke the LORD his God, and would move his hand over the spot, and thus cure the leprosy. Are not the rivers of Damascus, the Abana and the Pharpar, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be cleansed?" With this, he turned about in anger and left.

But his servants came up and reasoned with him. "My father," they said, "if the prophet had told you to do something extraordinary, would you not have done it? All the more now, since he said to you, 'Wash and be clean,' should you do as he said." So Naaman went down and plunged into the Jordan seven times at the word of the man of God. His flesh became again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

He returned with his whole retinue to the man of God. On his arrival he stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel."

### Responsorial Psalm PS 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4

R. (see 42:3) Athirst is my soul for the living God.  
When shall I go and behold the face of God?  
As the hind longs for the running waters,  
so my soul longs for you, O God.  
R. Athirst is my soul for the living God.  
When shall I go and behold the face of God?  
Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.  
When shall I go and behold the face of God?  
R. Athirst is my soul for the living God.  
When shall I go and behold the face of God?

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Send forth your light and your fidelity;  
they shall lead me on  
And bring me to your holy mountain,  
to your dwelling-place.  
R. Athirst is my soul for the living God.  
When shall I go and behold the face of God?  
Then will I go in to the altar of God,  
the God of my gladness and joy;  
Then will I give you thanks upon the harp,  
O God, my God!  
R. Athirst is my soul for the living God.  
When shall I go and behold the face of God?  
Verse Before the Gospel See Psalm 130:5, 7  
I hope in the LORD, I trust in his word;  
with him there is kindness and plenteous redemption.

### Gospel Lk 4:24-30

Jesus said to the people in the synagogue at Nazareth:  
"Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place.  
Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of  
Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a  
severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these  
that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of  
Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of  
Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only  
Naaman the Syrian." When the people in the synagogue heard this,  
they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the  
town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had  
been built, to hurl him down headlong. But he passed through the  
midst of them and went away.

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### TUESDAY

#### Reading 1 Dn 3:25, 34-43

Azariah stood up in the fire and prayed aloud:

"For your name's sake, O Lord, do not deliver us up forever, or make  
void your covenant. Do not take away your mercy from us, for the  
sake of Abraham, your beloved, Isaac your servant, and Israel your  
holy one, To whom you promised to multiply their offspring like the  
stars of heaven, or the sand on the shore of the sea. For we are  
reduced, O Lord, beyond any other nation, brought low everywhere  
in the world this day because of our sins. We have in our day no  
prince, prophet, or leader, no burnt offering, sacrifice, oblation, or  
incense, no place to offer first fruits, to find favor with you. But with  
contrite heart and humble spirit let us be received; As though it  
were burnt offerings of rams and bullocks, or thousands of fat  
lambs, So let our sacrifice be in your presence today as we follow  
you unreservedly; for those who trust in you cannot be put to  
shame. And now we follow you with our whole heart, we fear you  
and we pray to you. Do not let us be put to shame, but deal with us  
in your kindness and great mercy. Deliver us by your wonders, and  
bring glory to your name, O Lord."

#### Responsorial Psalm PS 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9

R. (6a) Remember your mercies, O Lord.  
Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;

teach me your paths,  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my savior.  
R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.  
Remember that your compassion, O LORD,  
and your kindness are from of old.  
In your kindness remember me,  
because of your goodness, O LORD.  
R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.  
Good and upright is the LORD;  
thus he shows sinners the way.  
He guides the humble to justice,  
he teaches the humble his way.  
R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.  
Verse Before the Gospel JI 2:12-13  
Even now, says the LORD,  
return to me with your whole heart;  
for I am gracious and merciful.

### Gospel Mt 18:21-35

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins  
against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?"  
Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven  
times. That is why the Kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king  
who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began  
the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a  
huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master  
ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his  
property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did  
him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back  
in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him  
go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found  
one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount.  
He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what  
you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be  
patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he  
had him put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his  
fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply  
disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair.  
His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I  
forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you  
not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then  
in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should  
pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you,  
unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

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### WEDNESDAY

#### Reading 1 Dt 4:1, 5-9

Moses spoke to the people and said:  
"Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you  
to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession  
of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.  
Therefore, I teach you the statutes and decrees as the LORD, my  
God, has commanded me, that you may observe them in the land  
you are entering to occupy. Observe them carefully, for thus will you  
give evidence of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations, who

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will hear of all these statutes and say, 'This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.' For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the LORD, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him? Or what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today?

"However, take care and be earnestly on your guard not to forget the things which your own eyes have seen, nor let them slip from your memory as long as you live, but teach them to your children and to your children's children."

### Responsorial Psalm PS 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20

R. (12a) Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.  
Glorify the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion.  
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;  
he has blessed your children within you.  
R. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.  
He sends forth his command to the earth;  
swiftly runs his word!  
He spreads snow like wool;  
frost he strews like ashes.  
R. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.  
He has proclaimed his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and his ordinances to Israel.  
He has not done thus for any other nation;  
his ordinances he has not made known to them.  
R. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.  
Verse Before the Gospel See Jn 6:63c, 68c  
Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life;  
you have the words of everlasting life.

### Gospel Mt 5:17-19

Jesus said to his disciples:  
"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the Kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven."

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### THURSDAY

#### Reading 1 Jer 7:23-28

Thus says the LORD:  
This is what I commanded my people: Listen to my voice; then I will be your God and you shall be my people. Walk in all the ways that I command you, so that you may prosper.

But they obeyed not, nor did they pay heed. They walked in the hardness of their evil hearts and turned their backs, not their faces, to me. From the day that your fathers left the land of Egypt even to this day, I have sent you untiringly all my servants the prophets. Yet they have not obeyed me nor paid heed; they have stiffened their necks and done worse than their fathers. When you speak all these

words to them, they will not listen to you either; when you call to them, they will not answer you. Say to them: This is the nation that does not listen to the voice of the LORD, its God, or take correction. Faithfulness has disappeared; the word itself is banished from their speech.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.  
Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;  
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.  
R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.  
Come, let us bow down in worship;  
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.  
R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.  
Oh, that today you would hear his voice:  
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as in the day of Massah in the desert,  
Where your fathers tempted me;  
they tested me though they had seen my works."  
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Verse Before the Gospel Jl 2:12-13  
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return to me with your whole heart,  
for I am gracious and merciful.

### Gospel Lk 11:14-23

Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute, and when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke and the crowds were amazed. Some of them said, "By the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he drives out demons." Others, to test him, asked him for a sign from heaven. But he knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste and house will fall against house. And if Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that it is by Beelzebul that I drive out demons. If I, then, drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own people drive them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I drive out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man fully armed guards his palace, his possessions are safe. But when one stronger than he attacks and overcomes him, he takes away the armor on which he relied and distributes the spoils. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."

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### FRIDAY

#### Reading 1 Hos 14:2-10

Thus says the LORD:  
Return, O Israel, to the LORD, your God; you have collapsed through your guilt. Take with you words, and return to the LORD; Say to him, "Forgive all iniquity, and receive what is good, that we may render as offerings the bullocks from our stalls. Assyria will not save us, nor shall we have horses to mount; We shall say no more, 'Our god,'

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to the work of our hands; for in you the orphan finds compassion.”

I will heal their defection, says the LORD,  
I will love them freely; for my wrath is turned away from them. I will  
be like the dew for Israel: he shall blossom like the lily; He shall  
strike root like the Lebanon cedar, and put forth his shoots. His  
splendor shall be like the olive tree and his fragrance like the  
Lebanon cedar. Again they shall dwell in his shade and raise grain;  
They shall blossom like the vine, and his fame shall be like the wine  
of Lebanon.

Ephraim! What more has he to do with idols? I have humbled him,  
but I will prosper him. “I am like a verdant cypress tree”— Because of  
me you bear fruit!

Let him who is wise understand these things; let him who is prudent  
know them. Straight are the paths of the LORD, in them the just  
walk, but sinners stumble in them.

### Responsorial Psalm PS 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17

R. (see 11 and 9a) I am the Lord your God: hear my voice.

An unfamiliar speech I hear:

“I relieved his shoulder of the burden;  
his hands were freed from the basket.  
In distress you called, and I rescued you.”

R. I am the Lord your God: hear my voice.

“Unseen, I answered you in thunder;  
I tested you at the waters of Meribah.  
Hear, my people, and I will admonish you;  
O Israel, will you not hear me?”

R. I am the Lord your God: hear my voice.

“There shall be no strange god among you  
nor shall you worship any alien god.

I, the LORD, am your God  
who led you forth from the land of Egypt.”

R. I am the Lord your God: hear my voice.

“If only my people would hear me,  
and Israel walk in my ways,  
I would feed them with the best of wheat,  
and with honey from the rock I would fill them.”

R. I am the Lord your God: hear my voice.

Verse Before the Gospel Mt 4:17

Repent, says the Lord;  
the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.

### Gospel Mk 12:28-34

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, “Which is the first  
of all the commandments?” Jesus replied, “The first is this:

*Hear, O Israel!*

*The Lord our God is Lord alone!*

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul,  
with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.*

The second is this:

*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

There is no other commandment greater than these.” The scribe  
said to him, “Well said, teacher. You are right in saying,

*He is One and there is no other than he.*

*And to love him with all your heart,  
with all your understanding,  
with all your strength,  
and to love your neighbor as yourself*

is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” And when  
Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him,  
“You are not far from the Kingdom of God.” And no one dared to ask  
him any more questions.

### SATURDAY

#### Reading 1 Hos 6:1-6

“Come, let us return to the LORD, it is he who has rent, but he will  
heal us; he has struck us, but he will bind our wounds. He will revive  
us after two days; on the third day he will raise us up, to live in his  
presence. Let us know, let us strive to know the LORD; as certain as  
the dawn is his coming, and his judgment shines forth like the light  
of day! He will come to us like the rain, like spring rain that waters  
the earth.”

What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah?  
Your piety is like a morning cloud, like the dew that early passes  
away. For this reason I smote them through the prophets, I slew  
them by the words of my mouth; For it is love that I desire, not  
sacrifice, and knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

#### Responsorial Psalm PS 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab

R. (see Hosea 6:6) It is mercy I desire, and not sacrifice.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;  
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.  
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt  
and of my sin cleanse me.

R. It is mercy I desire, and not sacrifice.

For you are not pleased with sacrifices;  
should I offer a burnt offering, you would not accept it.  
My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit;  
a heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn.

R. It is mercy I desire, and not sacrifice.

Be bountiful, O LORD, to Zion in your kindness  
by rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem;

Then shall you be pleased with due sacrifices,  
burnt offerings and holocausts.

R. It is mercy I desire, and not sacrifice.

Verse Before the Gospel Ps 95:8

If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.

#### Gospel Lk 18:9-14

Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their  
own righteousness and despised everyone else. “Two people went  
up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was  
a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this

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prayer to himself, 'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity — greedy, dishonest, adulterous — or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.' But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

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