

Third Sunday of Lent A

15 March 2020

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Exodus 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

In the wilderness the people thirsted 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?"

So Moses cried out to the Lord,
"What shall I do with this people?
They are almost ready to stone me."

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.

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.

He called the place Massah and Meribah,
because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord,
saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9

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

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans
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 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.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

cf John 4:42, 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42

A reading from the holy gospel according to John
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 children 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.

Sir, I see that you are a prophet.

Our ancestors worshipped 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 worshippers 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 the Messiah is coming" (who is called the 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."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus

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 Saviour of the world.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.