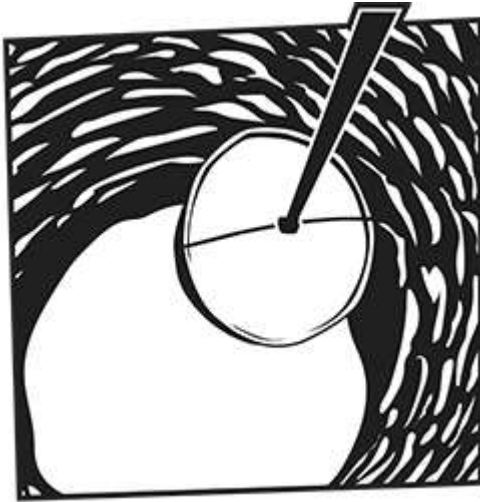


**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda NY
March 12th, 2023**



AS WE GATHER

“Jesus Met the Woman at the Well” is the title of a traditional Gospel song first recorded in 1947 and made famous in 1964 through the recordings done by Ian and Sylvia, a Canadian folk duo, and Peter, Paul and Mary, an American folk trio. The words of the song recount the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman. The woman was amazed that Jesus knew all about her complex and complicated life and still was willing to spend time with her. Jesus knows all about each of us and the road we are on—and yet He still remains with us and calls us His own. In worship, we spend a special time with Him. How blessed we are!

LSB 644 The Church's One Foundation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, we know and admit that we are sinners. We are conceived and born sinful, and we add on to that burden of sin throughout our lives by our heedless thoughts, careless words, and loveless deeds. Indeed, we deserve God's punishment now and eternally. When we reflect honestly on our lives, we readily see that we need repentance and renewal that can only come through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Let us then make confession to our gracious God.

Almighty God, we repent of our sins in thought and in word and in deed. You know too well our failings and our transgressions. Be merciful to us and for the sake of Jesus, grant us Your forgiveness so that, as Your redeemed people, we may find rest in You and with refreshed hearts serve You in time and in eternity.

In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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 singing your praise!
*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

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.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Exodus 17:1–7*

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And 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 grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the

people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle *Romans 5:1–8*

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel *John 4:5–26*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourth chapter.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

⁵So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus 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, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 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 now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

LSB 437 Go to Dark Gethsemane

Sermon

Offertory

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole Church. Gracious Father, we ask Your blessing on all in Your Church throughout the world. Fill the Church with all truth and peace. Where it is in error, reform it; where it is in need, supply it; where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; and where it is in conflict, heal divisions. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray this day for the fellowship of faith and love that we enjoy as God's

baptized and holy people, asking that we may gather for worship with great joy and full anticipation of the blessings of God that come to us through it. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who serve in leadership positions in our national Synod, in our district, and in our local congregation, that God may work among us through their examples and that we grow in devotion and dedication in Jesus' name. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We make petitions for the sick, the shut-in, the sorrowing, those undergoing hardship or challenges, and all who this day need our prayers, [*especially* . . .], that their prayers may be soon answered and that they be supported by God's people as they experience His good and gracious will for their lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray that our lives be offerings of the best that we have and are in response to the great offering of our Lord Jesus for us on the cross and that what we give of our time, talent, and treasure for the work of the Lord bring blessing to many. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Almighty God, since You have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to You and have promised that when two or three are gathered in Your name You will give ear to their requests, fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of Your servants, as may be best for them, granting us in this world knowledge of Your truth, and in the world to come, life everlasting; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Salutation and Benedicamus

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Bless we the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

LSB 722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me