



Liturgy Cycle A

Third Sunday Of The Lent

The Giver Who Began By Asking

Introduction

The Gospel today tells of a woman who was searching for water that would quench her thirst for happiness. Right out of the blue she encountered a person who told her that he could provide her with that water. The person was Christ. We are all looking for the elusive 'something' that will make us happy. We come here this morning to encounter the only person who can give us what we are looking for.

First Reading (Exodus 17:3-7)

Despite their ingratitude, God shows his care for his people by providing water for them in the desert.

Second Reading (Romans 5: 1-2.5-8)

God has proved his extraordinary love for us by the fact that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel (John 4:5-42)

This contains the account of one of the most touching encounters of the Gospel- Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us not be afraid to acknowledge our inner thirst, and let us pray with confidence to Christ who alone can quench it.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all followers of Christ: that they may turn away from the murky waters of sin, and seek instead the clear waters of grace. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For people everywhere: that they may realize that all they drink in the world will never quench the thirst God has placed in the human heart. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



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Christ asked the woman for a drink, and she gave it to him. That we may respond to the thirsts of our human brothers and sisters. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

That through the prayer and the reception of the sacraments, we may grow steadily in friendship and in intimacy with Christ. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Communion Reflection

There is a thirst in every human heart.

Each of us is like that lonely Samaritan woman.

**We are thirsting for something,
something that will satisfy all our longings.**

**The only trouble is,
we often search in the wrong places.**

We draw water from many wells:

the water of praise to quench our thirst for self-esteem;

the water of success to quench our thirst for importance;

the water of pleasure to quench our thirst for joy

But we still get thirsty.

**For those who have encountered Christ
the search is over.**

**He alone can provide clean living water
to quench our inner thirst.**

**The encounter with Christ can happen
at any time at any place. When it happens,
he will cause a spring to well up inside us.**

**The water from this spring will sustain us
in our journey to the Promise Land of eternal life.**