

3rd SUNDAY OF LENT—Sunday 12th March 2023
COLLECT, READINGS AND POST COMMUNION PRAYER

THE COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but
first he suffered pain, and entered not into
glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of
the cross, may find it none other than the way
of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

1st READING: Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole
congregation of the Israelites journeyed by
stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped
at Rephidim, but there was no water for the
people to drink. ²The people quarrelled with
Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' 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
complained against Moses and said, 'Why did
you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our
children and livestock with thirst?' ⁴So Moses
cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this
people? They are almost ready to stone me.'
⁵The 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. ⁶I 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. ⁷He called the place
Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites
quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the
Lord among us or not?'

2nd READING: Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we
have peace with God through our Lord Jesus
Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access
to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in
our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not
only that, but we also boast in our sufferings,
knowing that suffering produces endurance,
⁴and endurance produces character, and
character produces hope, ⁵and 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. ⁶For while we were
still weak, at the right time Christ died for the
ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a
righteous person—though perhaps for a good
person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But
God proves his love for us in that while we still
were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more
surely then, now that we have been justified by
his blood, will we be saved through him from
the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were
enemies, we were reconciled to God through
the death of his Son, much more surely, having
been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.
¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God
through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom
we have now received reconciliation.

THE GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

Please turn over for the reading

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the
temptations of the world, the flesh and the
devil, and with pure hearts and minds to
follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

⁵ Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ 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.) ¹⁰ 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.' ¹¹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' ¹³ Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ 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.' ¹⁵ 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.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' ¹⁷ The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' ¹⁹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' ²¹ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ 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. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' ²⁵ The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' ²⁶ Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' ²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' ²⁸ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him. ³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' ³² But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' ³³ So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' ³⁴ Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.' ³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² 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.'