

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

GOSPEL READING FOR VOICES



THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

John 4: 5-42

GOSPEL FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

This gospel may require three readers

Celebrant: **The Lord be with you.**

All: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: **A reading from the holy gospel according to John.**

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Narrator: Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her,

Jesus: **Give me a drink.**

Narrator: The Samaritan woman said to him,

Woman: What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?

Narrator: Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

Jesus: **If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water'.**

Woman: 'You have no bucket, sir, and the well is deep: how could you get this living water?

Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?'

Jesus: **Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life'.**

Woman: Sir, give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.

Jesus: Go and call your husband and come back here.

Woman: I have no husband.

Jesus: You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.

Woman: I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.

Jesus: Believe me, woman, 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 do know: for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.

Woman: I know that the Messiah, the Christ is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.

Narrator: Jesus said to the woman:

Jesus: I who am speaking to you, I am he.

Narrator: At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people.

Woman: Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?

Narrator: This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him.

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world'.

Celebrant: **The Gospel of the Lord.**

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.