



THE LIVING
WORD
OF
LENT

A DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

March 5 - March 11

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



This week, in the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus crosses quite a few boundaries. The Jews considered the Samaritans to be total heretics—they cursed them publicly in the synagogues, they prayed to God that the Samaritans would not share in eternal life with them, they wouldn't accept a service from a Samaritan, and they would not have believed the testimony of a Samaritan.

Furthermore, Jesus should not have been speaking with this woman alone. Not only was he crossing that gender boundary, but the woman was likely an outcast because of her marriage/living situation. She may have been divorced or a widow. She may have chosen to live with a man for the protection he could provide. We don't have many details, but whatever the situation, she has been made an outcast. This is why she is drawing water at the hottest part of the day, when other people would not be around.

Yet, Jesus has a lengthy, deep, theological discourse with this woman. In the text, we can tell that she knew a bit about theology and the disagreements between the Samaritans and the Jews. While this woman went to draw water from a well, she found herself speaking face-to-face with the One who is the true water of life. Gale R. O'Day writes, "Jesus breaks open boundaries in his conversation with the Samaritan woman: the boundary between male and female, the boundary between 'chosen people' and 'rejected people.' Jesus' journey to Samaria and his conversation with the woman demonstrate that the grace of God that he offers is available to all."

Who among us has not at one time or another felt like this woman, stuck in a situation that we would not have chosen, feeling rejected by those around us, needing the company and grace of someone to draw near?



Our central Gospel text anchors many other texts with themes of “the well” and “drinking” from Christ. God is the Old Testament provider who supernaturally provided manna and quail when the Israelites were wandering in the desert. He is the living water that Jeremiah 2 speaks about, even when God’s people choose to find other means of quenching their thirst. He is the spiritual rock, but we have to try not to displease God like our ancestors (1 Cor 10:1-4).

Psalms 95 and 81 remind us that God is the rock of our salvation and that we drink from this rock. God is the provider who takes care of our needs—both physical and spiritual.

FOR reflection



***What boundaries did Jesus cross to meet you?
How did he redeem your story? And what boundaries might you need to cross to introduce others to the living water of Jesus?***



SCRIPTURE

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday	Psalm 95; Exodus 16:1-8; Colossians 1:15-23
Friday	Psalm 95; Exodus 16:9-21; Ephesians 2:11-22
Saturday	Psalm 95; Exodus 16:27-35; John 4:1-6
Sunday	Psalm 95; Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
Monday	Psalm 81; Genesis 24:1-27; 2 John 1:1-13
Tuesday	Psalm 81; Genesis 29:1-14; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4
Wednesday	Psalm 81; Jeremiah 2:4-13; John 7:14-31, 37-39

Why do the daily readings begin on Thursday?

The daily readings for each week begin on Thursday and end on the following Wednesday. The Thursday through Saturday readings prepare the reader for the Sunday ahead. The Monday through Wednesday readings reflect on what was presented on Sunday.

The Morning Liturgy

Opening Scripture

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against him; neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws which he set before us.

Daniel 9:9-10

Opening Prayer (based on Psalm 51)

Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. *Amen.*

Scripture Reading (read Psalm and Gospel text here)

Period of Silence

Confessing Our Faith (Apostles' Creed)

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

A Midday Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you.” Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever. *Amen.*

An Early Evening Prayer

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

A Bedtime Confession and Prayer

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. *Amen.*



Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

