



Lent 3 Yr A – 12th March 2023 - Baptism

Will you give me a drink?

Greeter: *Heather*

Meditation Hymn: Holy Holy (TIS 723)

Holy Holy Holy
My heart my heart adores you
My heart knows how to say to you
Holy are you, Lord (x2)

Welcome:

Greeting:

On this third Sunday of Lent
May the Lord be with you
And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

Lent Candles:

In Lent we set love upon our hearts and feet and walk with Jesus towards the cross. As a reminder that Jesus did not shy from entering the darkest and most difficult places, we blow out a candle each week.

[Three candles are blown out]

In our walking we know that we are not alone,
for Jesus has walked this road before us,
and God's Spirit rests upon us as we take this journey forward.

Acknowledgement First Peoples:

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Gadigal and Wangal people and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony.

We honour the wisdom of the Gadigal and Wangal Elders and their continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation.

Call to Worship:

We gather together—
**the seekers, the dreamers, the shooting-star wishers,
in hopes of seeing God.**

We gather together—
**the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely,
in hopes of finding peace.**

We gather together—
**those who are thirsty and those with water to spare,
in hopes of finding justice.**

So come to the well,
come to the table.

Come, let us worship God.

Opening Prayer:

God of conversation,
We come to you today thirsty—
thirsty for hope,

thirsty for good news,
thirsty for a glimpse of you.
So today we pray,
move in these words like a current.
Give us the courage to wade into your story
with open eyes and open hearts.
Give us the courage to drink this moment in.
We are listening.
We are grateful.
Amen

Hymn: God of freedom (TIS 657 to tune TIS 134)

1. God of freedom, God of justice,
God whose love is strong as death,
God who saw the dark of prison,
God who knew the price of faith:
Touch our world of sad oppression
With Your Spirit's healing breath.

2. Rid the earth of torture's terror,
God whose hands were nailed to wood;
Hear the cries of pain and protest,
God who shed the tears and blood:
Move in us the power of pity
Restless for the common good.

3. Make in us a captive conscience
Quick to hear, to act, to plead;
Make us truly sisters, brothers
Of whatever race or creed:
Teach us to be fully human,
Open to each other's need.

Prayer of Confession:

In today's service we will hear the story of the Samaritan woman. A story of a woman who, in the heat of the day, meets Jesus at a well and he asks her for a drink. When was the last time we drew water for someone? When was the last time we drew water for ourselves?

With this same open curiosity, we come to the prayer of confession, trusting that even if we forget our bucket, God will still meet us at the well.

Friends, with that grace in mind, let us pray:

Holy God, we have been on every side of this story.

We have been the one who is thirsty and in need of compassion, and we have been the one with a bucket and a deep well.

So today we wonder: how often have we missed the opportunity to share water with our neighbours?

How often have we forgotten that we have a bucket and the power to bring change?

How often have we simply decided that justice and compassion were not worth the work?

Forgive our fragile hearts and remind us that it was you who sat at that well in Samaria in the heat of the day.

It was you. It is still you.

With hope we pray

Amen

Words of assurance:

Family of faith, as hard as it is to imagine:

we could lose the bucket, we could hoard the water for ourselves, we could pretend we do not see all who are thirsty, and we would still belong to God.

This is the good news of the gospel:

God's grace is deeper than any well.

We are seen, loved, and forgiven.

May this realisation change and inspire us.

Amen.

Peace:

The peace of Christ be always with you

And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace with one another

Baptism Hymn: Father welcomes all his children (TIS 491)

Chorus:

Father welcomes all his children

to his family through his Son.
Father giving his salvation,
Life for ever has been won.

1. Little children, come to me,
for my kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give,
Mercy for your sin.

2. In the water, in the Word,
in his promise be assured:
Those who are baptised and believe
shall be born again.

3. Let us daily die to sin;
Let us daily rise with Him.
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord.
Live in the peace of God.

Moment for the young at heart: Heather

Baptism of Tommy

Congregational Responses:

The minister says to the congregation:

In unity with the whole Church, let us stand and affirm the faith into which we were baptised.

The people stand.

Do you believe in God?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The people sit.

The Baptism

Blessing:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Tommy is presented to the congregation

I ask you, the people of this congregation, will you continue to provide this place of worship and witness, to maintain the life of worship and service, that **Tommy** and all the children in our community may grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the knowledge and love of God?

**With God's help, and because of our baptism,
we will live out what is expected of us;
to be a loving community in Christ;
encouraging one another in faith,
praying for each other, and
by working together in God's service.**

Bible Readings: Roger T

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 quarreled 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?” ³ But 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?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ The 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. ⁶ I 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. ⁷ He called the place Massah^[a] and Meribah,^[b] because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

John 4:5-42

⁵ So he 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.)^[a] 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,^[b] 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,^[c] 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,^[d] I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you^[e] 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^[f] will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You^[g] worship what you^[h] 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 worshipers 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,^[i] 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,^[ii] 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^[k] 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 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.”

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Andrew T

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
your kingdom come
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever.
Amen**

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

Creator God,
Take our Lenten offerings
and make them radical;
Grow their actions,
enable their impact.
As we prepare for tomorrow,
may your will be done.
On earth as it is in heaven.
Amen.

Hymn: Seek O Seek the Lord (TIS 646)

Chorus:
Seek, O seek the Lord, while He is near;
Trust Him, speak to Him in prayer, and He will hear.

God be with us in our lives,
direct us in our calling;
break the snares the world contrives,

keep us from falling.

God, increase in us the life
that Christ by dying gave us.
Though we faint with mortal strife,
His blood will save us.

Strengthen in our hearts the love
we owe to one another.
How can we love God above
and not our brother?

Benediction & Blessing:

As you leave this place,
may God bless you with seeking.
Seek out the hungry.
Seek the weary.
Seek the good in every person you pass.
Seek out the hopeful.
Seek the faithful.
Seek God in each of us.
As you seek and as you wonder,
may you find what you are looking for.
In the name of our loving God,
who is always seeking us,
go now in peace.

And the blessing of God Almighty;
Creator, Christ and Spirit
Be upon you and remain with you always.

3-fold-Amen

Pastoral Prayers: Christo and Brian

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Other liturgy: Sanctified Art