

East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

6200 County Road 3 SW – Byron, MN

March 15, 2020: Third Sunday in Lent

Holy Communion

Pastor Paul Thompson Organist: Pat Nelson

INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal – offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* (ELW 324)

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE (ELW p. 184)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled

question – “Is the LORD among us or not?” – received a very positive answer.

A reading from Exodus, chapter 17.

¹From 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?” 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 quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 95

¹Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

²**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

³For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶**Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

⁷For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of

God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.
Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

**8"Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

9There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

**10Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, 'The heart of
this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**

11Indeed I swore in my anger,
'They shall never come to my rest.'"

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

A reading from Romans, chapter 5.

¹Since 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 word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)

GOSPEL: John 4:5-26

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A 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.) ⁹The 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.) ¹⁰Jesus 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." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but 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." ¹⁵The 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."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But 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. ²⁴God is spirit, and

those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”²⁶Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *God Loved the World* (ELW 323)

CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to
judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Or, “who proceeds from the Father.” The phrase “and the Son” is a later addition to the creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition of the prayer will end: Hear us, O God,
Please respond with: **Your Mercy is great.** [At ending: **Amen.**]

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* Hymn 182

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
**God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but
with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts,
which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 190)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 191)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (ELW 779)

SONG AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 191)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING

SENDING SONG *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer (ELW 618)*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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WELCOME TO THOSE VISITING



If you're visiting, we're glad you chose to worship with us! Please sign our guestbook in the narthex. *Times for church services rotate monthly between East & West St. Olaf*

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE



WEST: 9:00 am worship

BOTH: 10:00 am – West JAM & East Sunday school

EAST: 11:00 am worship

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US

Note: Anyone interested may join Altar Guild

Altar Guild: Mar. – Marylin Carlson & Audrey Carlson

East Acolytes: Kale Robinson & Trace Robinson (Mar.)

East Deacon: Mar. – Pat Cahill

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Collections for Those in Need

Just a reminder that if you are able to help... we have collection boxes to help both the Women's Shelter and the Food Pantry.

Lenten Services with Soup Suppers

Join us for Lenten services at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays. *There is a soup supper at 6:00 pm each week.* March 18 at East, March 25 at West, and April 1 at East.

East St. Olaf Spring Dinner by Circle 4 – Next Sun., March 22

Join us for East's SPRING DINNER right after church on Sun., March 22. Menu: Scalloped potatoes, ham, assorted salads, buns, pickles, coffee and lemonade, and assorted desserts. Cost is \$9 for adults, \$4 for kids 4-8 years, and kids under 4 years old are free.


Meeting for East Altar Guild – March 29

Sun., March 29 right after church, we'll have a meeting for East Altar Guild with Pastor Paul. Please plan to attend.

Direct Your Thrivent "Choice Dollars" by March 31

Thrivent Choice Dollars from 2019 can still be directed until March 31, by calling **800-847-4836**. When prompted, say "Thrivent Choice". Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars. *A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.*

Lilies to Beautify Our Altar ~ Easter Will be Here Soon!

 If anyone wishes to donate/share their Easter lily/lilies at church "in-memory of" and/or "in-honor of" someone. EAST church should email Gina at the church office by Mon., April 6, regarding donated lilies. Please drop-off lilies at church the day before Easter.

Craft Night for East AND West Women – NEW date for APRIL... and kids are welcome at the April craft night

 Ladies, we hope you can join us for a monthly night of fellowship, fun and crafts! Meets at West chapel – bring a snack to share, and any specified items from the craft list (printed in newsletters/on bulletin board). NEW DATE: Thurs., April 16 from 6-8:00 pm at West chapel. Each month, RSVP to Donna Larsen at dmlarsen73@yahoo.com

Attendance and Contributions

Feb. Attendance: 2/2-35, 2/9-canceled, 2/16-48, and 2/23-40.
(03/01) Attendance: 32. Current \$921.
(03/04 – Wed.) Attendance: 42. Current \$120, Benevolence \$502.
(03/08) Attendance: 38. Current \$962 and Benevolence \$5.

HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

03/15 9:00 am West worship
10:00 am BOTH have JAM & SS (coffee-College Fund)
11:00 am East worship & communion
Mon. 9-noon Pastor Paul at office
10:00 am East quilting/sack lunch

Wed. 6:00 pm BOTH at East - soup supper
7:00 pm BOTH at East - Lenten service – (all confirmation students should attend)
Thur. 9-noon Pastor Paul at office
Fri. ----- Pastor's day off-work
Sat. Noon Deadline to submit info for next newsletter
03/22 SPRING DINNER at East St. Olaf
9:00 am West worship & communion
10:00 am BOTH have JAM & SS (coffee- Circle 4)
11:00 am East worship
Noon Spring Dinner at East – all are welcome!

COMING UP AT EAST & WEST

Mar. 24 (Tue.): 10:00 am East quilting/sack lunch
Mar. 25 (Wed.):
BOTH at WEST: 6:00 pm soup supper & 7:00 pm Lenten Service - West Board of Education serving supper (all confirmation students should attend)
Mar. 29 (Sun.):
• East Sunday school is serving East coffee
• East Altar Guild meeting with Pastor Paul – right after church
Mar. 31 (Tue.):
• 10:00 am East quilting/sack lunch
• NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER DAY at office (9:10-print, 9:30-fold, 9:45-collate)

APRIL

All students should attend Lenten, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday service in place of Confirmation class (until class resumes APRIL 15 at West church)

Apr. 1 (Wed.): BOTH at EAST 6:00 pm soup supper & 7:00 pm Lenten service (all confirmation students should attend)
Apr. 5 (Sun.): PALM SUNDAY Both churches have communion

LOCAL EVENTS

See bulletin boards for any posters about these events

Mar. 27 (Fri.): 15th Annual FISH FRY at Dodge Center's St. John's

Catholic Church from 4:00-7:30 pm. See poster for more info.
Apr. 3 (Fri.): 34th Annual FISH FRY at Hayfield's Sacred Heart
Catholic Church from 5:00-7:00 pm. See poster for more info.

TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

East Prayers: Orillie Iverson, Bill Fritts, Dianne Kearns, Laura Hall (*friend of Sharon Boelter*), Carmen Campbell (*Peggy Andreason's sister*), Steve Wilson, Maryann Schultz, Royce (*Jenny Schwanke's son*), Ashley (Pyfferoen) Hunzeker, Sylvia Torstenson, Dawn Otteson (*friend of Distad's*), Paula Ferdinandt-Rud, Emily Nagel (*girlfriend of Schultz's grandson*), Viola Olson, Steve Jensen, Julie Andreason, Heidi Guenius (*cousin of Becky Brakke*), Sharon Boelter, Dale Boelter, David Distad, Sally Iverson, Carol Severson, and John Heydt (*brother of Pat Nelson*).

West Prayers: Jill Thompson, Kurt Connelly, Erika Smith-military deployment (*granddaughter of Carma/Ardean*), Dennis Waskosky (*father of Karen Hanson*), Kelly Keckhafer, Boyd Pew, Bill Tietje (*brother of Carma Bjornson*), Joanne Larsen (*mother of Dan Larsen*), Joann Tiegen, Robert Beaver, Philip Senjem, and Matt Miller (*nephew of Carma Bjornson*).

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

PASTOR Paul Thompson: (*Please call before driving to the office.*)

Cell Phone: 507-273-8504 **Email:** pthomp821@gmail.com

Office hours: Monday and Thursday

9:00 am-Noon... OR by appointment (*Day off-work is Friday*)

SECRETARY Gina Moser: (*Please call before driving to the office.*)

Office Phone: 507-365-8222 **Cell Phone:** 507-951-4964

Emails: eastwest@kmtel.com AND certainty@kmtel.com

Please send all emails for Gina to both of her email addresses.

Office Hours: Tues. & Thursdays 10:00 am-Noon

OUR WEBSITES: eaststolaf.org OR weststolaf.org

OUR JANITORIAL SERVICE: Becky Wilbourne 507-923-5845

COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION:

President: Brian Mueller 252-8078

Gary Kearns - Home: 206-3158, Cell: 254-5285

Bryan DeCook - Cell: 208-1590 *continued on back...*

VISITS FOR OUR MEMBERS

If you know of anyone who may like a call or visit from Pastor Paul or from another member, please contact an East deacon:
Glenda Mueller: 696-5753, Pat Cahill: 507-365-8766, or Jane Williams: 507-271-2272.