

# Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT — March 15, 2020

## First Reading — Exodus 17:3-7

<sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water, and the people murmured against Moses, and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand the rod with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the faultfinding of the children of Israel, and because they put the LORD to the proof by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

## Responsorial Psalm PS 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9.

**R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;  
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us bow down in worship;  
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:  
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as in the day of Massah in the desert,

Where your fathers tempted me;  
they tested me though they had seen my works."

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

## Second Reading — Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ...<sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. <sup>6</sup>While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man— though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. <sup>8</sup>But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

## Gospel Reading — John 4:5-42

<sup>5</sup>So he came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. <sup>7</sup>There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. <sup>10</sup>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." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" <sup>13</sup>Jesus said

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to her, "Every one who drinks of this water will thirst again, <sup>14</sup>but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things." <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." <sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" <sup>28</sup>So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city, and said to the people, <sup>29</sup>"Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" <sup>30</sup>They went out of the city and were coming to him. <sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples besought him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." <sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, "Has any one brought him food?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work. <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. <sup>36</sup>He who

reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

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### INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

### Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

### INVITATION TO REFLECT

### INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

#### First Reading — Exodus 17:3-7

1. The Israelites expressed their discontent by complaining. What are the real roots of discontent?

#### Second Reading — Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

2. Contrast the reasons for the positive atmosphere of this passage with the reasons for the negative atmosphere of the First Reading.
3. Which of these reasons are most important to you? Why?

#### Gospel Reading — John 4:5-42

4. How would you define “spiritual thirst”?
5. What does the Samaritan woman’s response tell about her search for truth?
6. Which characteristic of Jesus most appeals to you from this encounter?
7. What can we learn from Jesus’ example about sharing the thirst-quenching Living Water with others?

### INVITATION TO ACT

*Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.*

### CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

*Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another’s openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.*