

Order of Worship for March 8, 2026

Prelude

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Opening Hymn – *“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”* – Hymn #435

Confessing our sin and receiving God’s forgiveness –

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson – Exodus 17:1-7

R: All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." 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 staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 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, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: We confess our sins to God.

C: We complain about all that is wrong in our lives. We lack health, funds, peace in our families, security. Though we have seen Your great act of saving us in Christ Jesus, we demand like the people of Israel, “Give us, give us, give us!” What Moses said of the people of Israel could be said of us, “What shall I do with this people?”

P: God sent His Son, Christ Jesus, to die on the cross with our lack of trust and faith. In His name, by His power, and following His command I forgive you of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Hear what we have through that forgiveness:

Service of the Word

Epistle Lesson – Romans 5:1-8

R: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Entrance Psalm:

P: Blessed are those whose strength is in You,

C: in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

P: How lovely is Your dwelling place,

C: O LORD of hosts!

P: My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD;

C: my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

P: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,

C: at Your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

P: Blessed are those who dwell in your house,

C: ever singing your praise!

All: Glory be 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.

P: Blessed are those whose strength is in You,

C: in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Hymn of Praise: “*Glory Be to Jesus*” – Hymn 433

Holy Gospel – John 4:5-26

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 4th chapter

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

So [Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as He was from His journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour (noon). A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." (For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, a Jew, ask for a

drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 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." The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered Him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but You say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Children's Message: (8:30)

Sermon Hymn: "Where Charity and Love Prevail" - Hymn # 845

Sermon: "Give Me a Drink" - John 4

My dad and his best friend would always, like two little boys, try to be one up on the other. One way they did that was by a birthday card. I do mean card. Each year they sent each other the same birthday card with the same worn one-dollar bill. They simply crossed out the most recent signature and replaced it with their own, put it in a new envelope, and sent it in the mail. But in a more serious way we do like to be on top of situations. We feel so much more comfortable to be owed something than to owe to someone else. We are told, "It is better to give than to receive." And that can be so true. When we give, we are in control. We much rather give something expensive to our children than have them do it to us. So, it may seem odd to us that Jesus, the one who we think of as always giving, says first to the women in our Gospel lesson, "Give Me a drink." He doesn't say to her, "I am the Messiah, the Son of God. I have come to take away your sins and give you eternal life." That may have been true, but what would the woman's reaction have been? Perhaps something like, "Sure, and I am the Queen of Samaria. I'm only coming to the well to get water because I want to do this as a diversion. Normally my slaves do this."

But instead, Jesus says, "Give Me a drink." He has journeyed a long way, it is noon, the hot time of day, and as a human like you and me, Jesus is thirsty. So, He asks for some water. But there is so much more to that which we can see in the woman's reaction to Him. "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" John, the author of this story adds, "For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans." Why would a Jewish man have anything to do with a Samaritan? But there is more which John doesn't even have to mention. This is also a woman. In the world of that day a decent man did not talk to a woman in public, not even his own wife. And finally, this is noon, the "sixth hour" as John calls it. Women went to the well in the morning when it was cool. Why was the woman going for water at noon? We get an answer when Jesus later says, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." This is a woman of questionable background, someone who would avoid going for water in the morning when all the other women in town would look down on her. Yet, despite all of this, Jesus asks her for a drink.

What Jesus has done is begin to break down the barriers that separated Him from this woman. By asking her for a drink, He would owe her, someone a Jew never wanted with a Samaritan. And He was risking that instead of just getting a drink of water, He would enter into a conversation, a relationship with her.

A homeless man comes up to us holding a can asking for a donation. What is easier to do, put some money in the can or stop and ask the man what is wrong? If we stop and ask, then we risk having to do what we were planning to do and listen to the man for a while. We are so much more in control of the situation if we give some money than just walk away. That way I don't have to be vulnerable. I can maintain a wall keeping me from having to be more committed. I can stay in control. They say about so many things, "It is easier to do it ourselves than to ask someone else to do it." If I try to get help, I have to take all the extra time explaining to someone else and I might not be able to have it done by my schedule.

If we ask someone for something then we risk involvement with that person. That is tough today in a world in which our most precious commodity seems to be time. We need time for our families. We need time to unwind. We need time to exercise and rest. We need time to take care of our houses, our finances, our homework, our appearance. Internationals have to get accustomed to what we mean in our culture when we pass by someone and ask, "How are you doing?" In their cultures that is an invitation to get into a conversation. But what we mean is, "I hope you are fine, but I don't have time to talk about it. So, 'Good bye.'"

But Jesus asked, "Give Me a drink." He risked getting involved with this woman. This happened even before He met her. John tells us in his Gospel that Jesus and the disciples were on their way back to their home area in Galilee from the area east of Judea where John the Baptist ministered. Even though Samaria was between Judea and Galilee, Jews often went around it to travel north or south. But Jesus and the disciples specifically went through Samaria. Why? So, Jesus could get involved in the life of the Samaritans.

That is what Jesus' whole ministry was about—getting involved with all people including you and me. He didn't come to take care of just He liked or who were close to Him. He didn't simply control the situation so that people were forced into accepting Him. He came to ask that woman for a drink. He came to make Himself vulnerable, to put Himself under all of us so He could take on Himself all of our problems, all of our sins.

That is what enables us to say, “Give me a drink,” to ask of others, to risk getting involved in the lives of others. It will take time, time that we can be so protective of, some that we try to hoard so much. How can we give up that time? First we can recognize that our time is not ours, but God’s gift to us. Remember the rich fool who thought he had it all figured out and had time to enjoy all the wealth he had, but lost it all when God called him to death at night. How much time is used for things like playing on the computer, working to impress others, making more money to collect things, or covering up our mistakes so we don’t have to admit them? Then we realize that time spent with other people, the people God puts daily in our lives, is time used as God’s gift. And putting our trust in Christ helps us to not worry so much about those things “we got to do.”

Bill Cowher, who coached the Pittsburgh Steelers for 15 years, is good friends with Bill Belichick of the New England Patriots. It developed because Cowher asked Belichick for help. They were both new defensive coordinators for different teams. Cowher had experience with defensive backs, but sought out help from Belichick to coach linebackers. When we ask people, we take the risk of them, not us, being in control. But it is also how we can get more involved in their lives.

“Give me a drink.” Jesus took that ultimate risk by getting involved in all of our lives. Now we can take risks too, the risk of being vulnerable, the risk of losing some of our precious time, the risk of not being in total control. We can so as we get involved in the lives of others, He does too.

Creed: 2nd and 3rd petitions of the Lord’s Prayer pg. 324

Prayers:

P: Lord in Your mercy,

C: give us Your water so we do not need to be thirsty.

8:30 AM Continues:

Hymn: “*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*” – **Hymn #809**

Lord’s Prayer:

Closing Prayer:

All: Christ Jesus, the Living Water from the Father, make us thirsty for You so that we seek not the things of this world which will not last, but the water You offer which alone can quench our spiritual thirst, You who rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.

Blessing (Pastor)

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: *“I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus”* – Hymn #729

Postlude

11:00 AM Continues:

Call to Communion:

P: Christ Jesus offers us the water of life so that we never have to spiritually thirst again. He gives us His true body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion to take away our sins and fill us with His love. We hear His invitation to drink from the water of life. We join together in the Lord’s Supper:

The Words of Our Lord:

Lord’s Prayer:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Distribution:

Distribution Hymns: *“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”* – Hymn #809

“Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart” – Hymn #708

Dismissal:

Closing Prayer:

All: Christ Jesus, the Living Water from the Father, make us thirsty for You so that we seek not the things of this world which will not last, but the water You offer which alone can quench our spiritual thirst, You who rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.

Blessing (Pastor)

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: *“I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus”* – Hymn #729

Postlude