

March 15, 2020: Lent 3A

Color: Purple

Scriptures: [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[Exodus 17:1-7](#) (God provides water in the wilderness to the thirsty, rebellious people)

[Psalm 95](#) (Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation)

[Romans 5:1-11](#) (Reconciliation and hope through Jesus Christ)

[John 4:5-42](#) (Living Water: The encounter with the Samaritan woman by Jacob's well)

Themes: Thirst for God, Guidance, Hope, Sin and Forgiveness, Living Water

FOCAL Faithelement PASSAGE: Psalm 95
(Podcast will be ready 2 weeks before date of use)

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to Hymnary.org, a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the morning's scriptures or themes.

All the Way My Savior Leads Me (ALL THE WAY).....	Exodus, John
All Who Hunger Gather Gladly (HOLY MANNA).....	John, Communion
And Can It Be That I Should Gain (SAGINA)	Romans
Gather Us In (GATHER US IN).....	John
Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken (AUSTRIAN HYMN)	Exodus, John
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (CWM RHONDDA).....	Exodus
He Leadeth Me (HE LEADETH ME).....	Exodus
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (KINGSFOLD, VOX DILECTI, THIRD MODE).....	John
Jesus, Lover of My Soul (MARTYN, ABERYSTWYTH).....	John
Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts (QUEBEC).....	John
O Love, That Wilt Not Let Me Go (ST. MARGARET).....	John
Rock of Ages (TOPLADY).....	Exodus, Psalm
Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart (MORECAMBE).....	Romans
The King of Love My Shepherd Is (ST. COLUMBA, DOMINUS REGIT ME).....	John
We Walk By Faith (SHANTI, DUNLAP'S CREEK, LOBT GOTT IHR CHRISTEN)	Psalms, Romans
What Wondrous Love Is This (WONDROUS LOVE).....	Romans, John
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (BICENTENNIAL).....	John, Communion

Before/During Prayer

[I Thirst For You](#), Irish Traditional, David Haas, arr. © 1997, GIA Publications, G-4688

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

All My Hope On God Is Founded - E . Exodus/Romans
Herbert Howells, *MICHAEL*; John Rutter, arr.
© 2017 Oxford University, ISBN: 9780193415942
SATB (or unison + descant), Organ

Come, Let Us Sing - M Psalm
Allen Pote
© 1996, Hope Publishing, F 1015
SATB, Keyboard, opt. Brass Quintet and Timpani

Come, Thou Fount - M Psalm
NETTLETON/Eric Nelson, arr.
© 2018 MorningStar Music, MSM-50-9770
SATB, Piano

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say - MD John
THIRD MODE/Donald Busarow, arr.
© 1983 Concordia Publishing, 98-2619
SATB (opt. Congregation), Flute, Organ
*This is published with an alternate title and text
"O God, Whose Will Is Life and Peace"*

It Is Well With My Soul - E Romans
Gary Matheny
© 1987, GIA Publications, G-2987
2-Part Mixed, Keyboard

I've Just Come From the Fountain - M John
Traditional Spiritual /Daniel Kallman, arr.
© 2004, MorningStar Music, MSM-50-6044
SATB, Piano

My Eternal King - MD Romans
Jane Marshall
© 1954, Carl Fischer, CM 6752
SATB, Organ

Uyai Mose - M Psalm
Alexander Gondo (Zimbabwe)/Kevin Holland, arr.
© 2014, Choristers Guild, CGA 1373
SATB, Solo, Percussion, Orff Instruments

Wondrous Love - M..... Romans
WONDROUS LOVE/Paul J. Christiansen, arr.
© 1955, Augsburg Fortress, 9780800652661
SATB, a cappella

-- youth and children --

By Your Love - E..... John
Jeanne Cotter
© 1987, GIA Publications, G-9184
SAB, Keyboard and Guitar

The Water I Give - E John
David Haas
© 1989, GIA Publications, G-4866
2-Part (opt. Congregation) Piano, Guitar, Flute

Come, Let Us Sing - E..... Psalm
Jodi W. Lindh
© 1989, Choristers Guild, CGA 478
Unison, Piano

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

Of course the festival of rain cannot be stopped, even in the city. The woman from the delicatessen scampers along the sidewalk with a newspaper over her head. The streets, suddenly washed, become transparent and alive, and the noise of traffic becomes a splashing of fountains. One would think that the urban man in a rainstorm would have to take account of nature in its wetness and freshness, its baptism and its renewal.

— THOMAS MERTON, from "RAIN AND THE RHINOCEROS"

When you drink the water, remember the well.

— CHINESE PROVERB

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CALL TO WORSHIP

(based upon Exodus 17:1-7)

One: Come, all who thirst—come to the water!

All: We come, longing for the water of life!

One: Dip your soul in the river of God's goodness;

All: We would quench our thirst at God's well of grace.

One: For God meets us here, offering living water
to all who would drink!

All: Let's worship God together!

GATHERING PRAYER

Holy Lord, as we journey onward, following your way,
refresh, renew, and restore us in your way.
You, who asked for water from the hands of a woman
in the land of a stranger,
no secrets are hidden from you.

You know our thirsts, our longing, our insecurity.
Now open our hearts and teach us to name our need,
love our neighbor, and to truly worship you.
Through him who gives the water of life, we pray. **Amen.**

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SUNG AFTER PRAYER

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one, stoop down and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.**

-- HORATIO BONAR, 1846,
from "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liberating God, you lead us away from enslavement, but our gratitude evaporates quickly.

“Make it easier for us,” we demand. “Can’t we have spiritual character without this much spiritual exercise?” we complain. “Give us constant proofs of your love,” we implore.

Meanwhile, we could be slaking our thirst with daily refreshment from you. And yet we misplace our drinking cups while we argue and worry instead.

Forgive us, O God, and grant us trust in your abiding love, that we might receive your Living Water.

-- MARIAN MCLURE TAYLOR

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The Fellow travelers, the floodgates of forgiveness have been opened. In Christ, we are washed clean of sin and raised to new life!

(MMT)

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, Wellspring of Salvation,
we come thirsty for a word in a weary land.
Now open our ears to hear your Word,
that it will freshen our spirits in the ways
of eternal life; through Jesus Christ,
the Living Water. Amen.

BENEDICTION

As you leave from this place,
May God refresh you on your way,
the loving Savior redeem you,
and the life-giving Spirit restore you.
Go in peace.
Amen.

*Thanks to Rev. Marian McClure Taylor, Pastor
[South Frankfort Presbyterian Church](#), Frankfort, Kentucky,
for her contributions to this week’s prayers.