

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 3, 2024

GATHERING: *We focus our attention on the cross of Jesus Christ*

PENITENTIAL ACT: *Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

LITURGY OF THE WORD see [Readings](#)

Responsorial Psalm 95: *If today you hear the voice of God harden not your hearts.*

Gospel Refrain: *All who drink the water I give will never thirst.
The water I give will be a fountain within you, giving life!*

The First Scrutiny:

After homily, Fr. Romeo introduces the scrutiny.

On this Third Sunday of Lent, we join with our RCIA elect in taking a closer look at ourselves. Let us pray silently for a moment, that all of us will be given a sense of sin, a spirit of repentance, and true freedom as children of God. *(time of silent prayer)*

I now invite our elect to come forward with their sponsors.

Let us pray for these elect whom the Church has chosen. May they successfully complete their long preparation and at the paschal feast find Christ in his sacraments.

Let us all ask ourselves:

- What personal or national shame do we hold that cries out for cleansing?

Silent reflection (followed by sung refrain "All who drink...")

- How can we be part of the fountain of life that Jesus offers to others?

Silent reflection (followed by sung refrain)

- Where do we find fountains of life that nurture us spiritually?

Where do we go to find the strength that we need to live out the faith that we profess?

Silent reflection (followed by sung refrain)

Exorcism

God of power,

you sent your Son to be our Savior.

Grant that these chosen ones,

who, like the woman of Samaria, thirst for living water,

may turn to the Lord as they hear his word

and acknowledge the sins and weaknesses that weigh them down.

Protect them from vain reliance on self

and defend them from the power of Satan.

Free them from the spirit of deceit,

so that, admitting the wrong they have done,

they may attain purity of heart

and advance on the way to salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. (Amen.)

Laying on of Hands

Let us pray:

Christ Jesus, we thirst for so many things: love, community, security, self-worth, wholeness, peace, dignity, friendship, and so much more.

In you we can find these things.

In you we can be made clean by the fountain of your love and compassion.

Come and lead us to your well of grace and mercy, so that we may never thirst again.

Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful: *You may un-mute and share your prayers.*

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts: *The God of Second Chances*

1. Come now, O God of second chances; open our lives to heal.
Remove our hate, and melt our rage. Save us from ourselves.
2. Come now, O God, release our demons; open our eyes to see
the shame within, our guilt and pain. Mend us; make us whole.
3. Come now, O God, and still our anger; open our minds to peace.
Embrace our fear, and hold us close. Calm the storm within.
4. Come now, O God, shake our resentment; open our way to choose
the way of love over revenge. Show us a new way.
5. Come now, O God, and grant compassion; open our hearts to love.
May we let go of all our hurt. Help us to move on.
6. Come now, O God of second chances, may we forgive ourselves,
may we become your living sign: Children of God's love.

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Spiritual Communion Prayer

Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Communion Song:***Come to the Water***

1. O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
Without money, without price. Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?
2. And let all who seek, let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
Without money, without strife. Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?
3. And let all the poor, let them come to the water.
Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:
Bring the children without might. Easy the load and light: come to the Lord.

Text: Isaiah 55:1, 2, Matthew 11:28-30; John Foley, SJ, b.1939, © 1978, John B. Foley, SJ, and New Dawn Music.
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Sending Forth Song: *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.
2. 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 lifegiving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.
3. I heard the voice of Jesus say, “I am this dark world’s light;
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise, and all thy day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I’ll walk till traveling days are done.

Text: CMD; Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, alt.

