

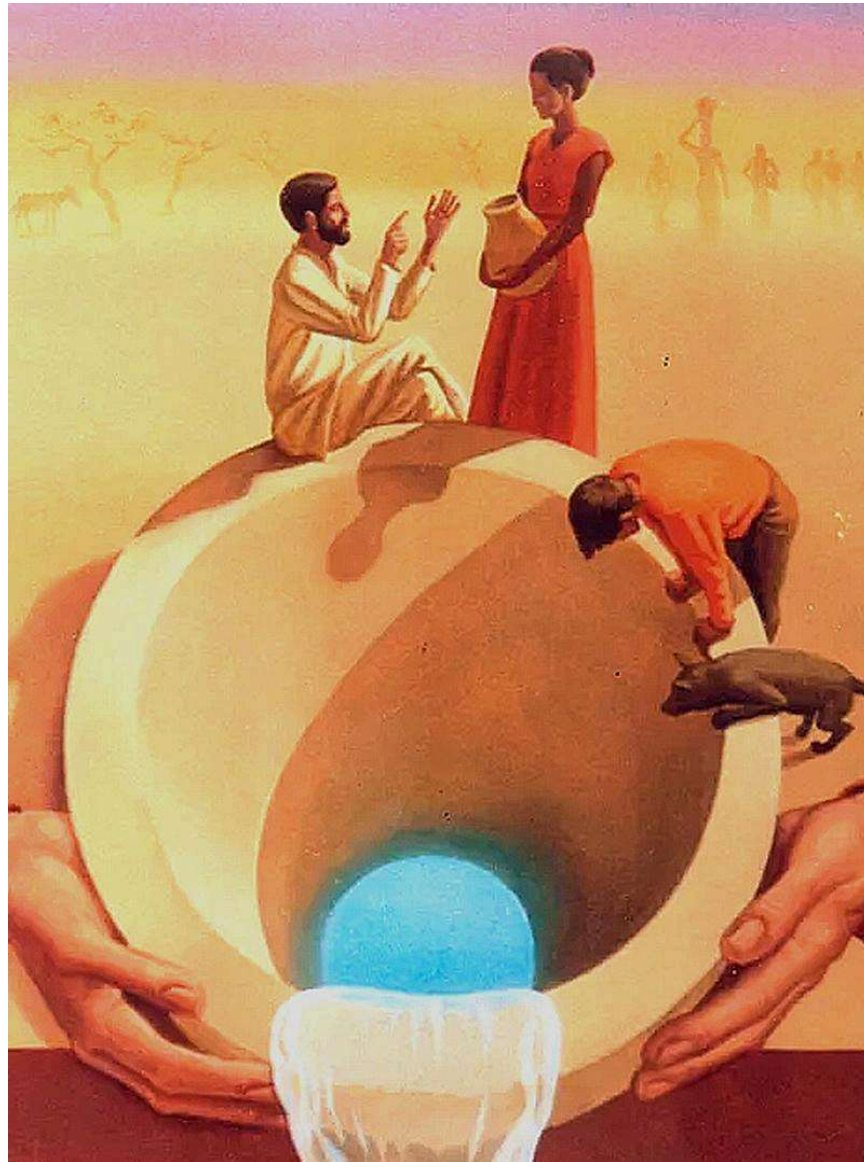
SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

March 6 and 9, 2024



They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

- John 4:42



"Christ at the Well" by Peter Koenig

Jesus meets the woman at the well. Koenig suggests all are welcome to quench their spiritual and literal thirst.

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG (SOLO)

“HE KNOWS MY NAME”

ARR. TASHA COBBS

GREETING

PRESIDER

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

STUDENT MINISTER

S. Minister: God shepherds us.

All: God restores our souls.

S. Minister: We shall not fear evil.

All: For God is always with us.

S. Minister: Surely goodness and mercy will follow us.

All: And we will live in and with God forever!

S. Minister: Let us join our hearts and minds together in worship!

***OPENING HYMN**

“WITH JOY DRAW WATER” (vs. 1, 3, 5)

NCH 109

***CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

[All are invited to turn toward the Baptismal Font.]

Student Minister: Mother God, we seek to be your children seeking justice and peace for all of your creation. To see that all may flourish. Yet, we fall short. We forget about the sacredness of all people, all creatures, and all of creation. We stay silent when your people are exploited, neglected, and left nameless. We seek your forgiveness for all these things and the things we hold unspoken.

[Pause for two breaths for silent prayer.]

Presider: Rejoice. The same God who took on flesh in Galilee, brought healing and hope to those that were sick, suffer, and oppressed, is here with us offering us healing and hope. God’s work in her people is not over.

All: May we join together seeking her peace, hope and justice.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

STUDENT MINISTER

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a way comfortable to you and your neighbor.

Peace be with you! **And also with you!**

Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM

“LIKE THE SAMARITAN WOMAN BY THE WELL”

SR. CLAUDIA HAE-IN LEE

Sister Claudia was born in South Korea in 1945. She joined the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters of Busan in 1964, after her graduation from high school. She holds a degree in English from St. Louis University in the Philippines and published her first collection of poems in 1976, at the age of 31. In 2008, she had a serious bout with cancer. She has said: "After fighting cancer, I started using more words like happiness and enjoyment which I didn't use often before. I realized that pain can become an opportunity for blessing."

Lord, won't you come and quietly speak
as if asking me for one cup of water first
like you did the Samaritan woman who came
to draw water out of Jacob's Well?
You know that I'm a sinner
I lack courage—

Speak quickly, please,
I want to hear directly from you today
who I am
and who you are
and what our encounter means.
I keep drawing water for you
from the well of daily life
in my small shabby bucket
but won't you show me a way
to draw water without any bucket at all?

From the moment you took your place beside me,
deep pure well of water that you are,
every day has been a new festival for me.
My long stagnant sorrow and thirst
like drops of water in my jar
Have risen up to dance, all smiling now.

The happiness of meeting you is such
I may forget for a moment how sinful I am;
I hope you will forgive me?

Lord, the happiness of loving you
can really not be kept hidden.

Grant me now to go running farther
like that Samaritan woman beside the well
who left her pitcher and ran to the village.

To bring many others to you
and also
to tell about the living water—

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

STUDENT MINISTER

Mothering God, may your nurturing spirit guide us through your word and your ways, bringing us your wisdom for the world.

SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 4:27-42

NRSV

A reading from the Gospel of John, chapter 4, verses 27 through 42.

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The Word of God, for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

REV. JENNIKA BORGER (MARCH 6)

KIMBERLY JOHNSON (MARCH 9)

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

STUDENT MINISTER

We give you thanks, O God, for calling us your children. In solidarity with our siblings across your creation, we cry out: "Save, O God, your people!"

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We pray for your creation. May this earth, our home, the moon and the sun, the grass, the trees, the water, the sky, be sustained by you and preserved from our greed.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We pray for your human family. May we stop fighting and seek peace, walking in the path of your shalom, in which we shall not stumble.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We pray for your church. May it be what you have called it to be: a refuge for the poor, a home for the displaced and the forgotten, a house not of scarcity but of abundance.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We pray for loved ones. Turn their mourning into joy, given them gladness for sorrow, teach us how to comfort them, even as you comfort us.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

O God, may we be satisfied by what we receive from your hands, even as we long for the fullness of your grace to redeem and restore your fractured family; through Jesus Christ and in the power of your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Presider: God is with you!

All: And God is with us all.

Presider: Open wide your hearts.

All: We open them completely to the Spirit of God.

Presider: May God's love nurture your wandering spirits each day.

All: May God's light sustain your souls each night.

This is a season of wilderness-

The season we grasp to understand the Divine just a little more.

This is the time for us to reach inwards to find the self that God sees.

This is the chance for us to gaze outwards, caring for the Christ in our midst.

The Lenten roads are long
Yet full of gifts.

The Lenten paths often seem chilly
Yet warm with the winds of the Spirit.

The Spirit of God is the light that leads us in the hushed nights.

The Christ is our companion on the journey in the intense sunlight of day.
We remember his time in the wilderness- The struggles. The hunger. The peace.

And as we seek the Divine in our midst. On this journey, we crave the bread of life. On our desert roads, we thirst for the fruit of the vine, the cup of blessings.

Through the story of Jesus the Christ, we remember the night before his arrest, The night of serenity, solemnity, and love. Jesus took in his hands bread from the table. He broke it and blessed it. Eat in remembrance of me, he said.

And after supper, As the night grew long, Jesus took a cup, and filled it with the fruit of the vine. As he blessed it, he spoke aloud to them. Take and drink and always remember me.

May the Spirit who traveled with Christ in the wilderness. And fills us with the hope of God. Surround these elements. May the Spirit speak to us in this season of wilderness. Becoming our strength on this journey. And filling our lives with love. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRESIDER

We have a few COVID related options for those who wish to partake. If you wish to receive from the ministers, take an empty cup from the stack on the aisle table and approach the minister, who will place a piece of bread in your open hand. All bread is gluten free. Or you may take one of the sealed celebration cups with the wafer on top and juice beneath; hold them out to the minister for a blessing. A minister will pour grape juice into your cup. Eat, drink, and dispose of the cup in the waste baskets at the side aisles as you return to your seat.

If you are unable to come forward, please signal the ministers, and we will come to you at your seat. Those who prefer not to partake in Communion are invited to a different kind of divine encounter through an interfaith prayer of blessing. If this is your preference, we invite you to meet the minister at the baptismal font.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at this table where Christ is the host.

COMMUNION SONG

“AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE”

NCH 332

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

PRESIDER

Divine Light of Our Journey-
In a spirit of gratitude we give thanks for this time at your Holy Meal.
This time at the Table filled us with strength,
Knowing that as we continue on this Lenten journey,
We will find your peace surrounding us.

Amen.

*BENEDICTION

SENDING & POSTLUDE

*With humility and contriteness of heart, make room for
the One who created you, redeemed you, and ever sustains you.*

Cover Art: Koenig, Peter. Christ at the Well, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. 20th Century. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58521> [retrieved July 20, 2023]. Original source: Peter Winfried (Canisius) Koenig, <https://www.pwkoenig.co.uk/>.

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**The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.*

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM

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Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams, Advisor

THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

To serve the universal church of our Creator.

To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.

To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.