

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When I prove my holiness among you, I will gather you from all the foreign lands; and I will pour clean water upon you and cleanse you from all your impurities, and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:
 Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
 Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 May almighty God have mercy on us..... **Amen.**



LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Exodus 17: 3 - 7

A reading from the book of Exodus
 Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 94:1-2,6-9

R O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

- Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.
 Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **[R]**
- Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **[R]**
- O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **[R]**

SECOND READING Romans 5:1-2,5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has

been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Glory to you, you are really the saviour of the world; give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL John 4: 5-15,19 -26, 39 – 42 (Shorter Form Only)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
 Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.

The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans.

Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you:

Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again:

the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him



ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, All bow for following two lines: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, who was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters, May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith. We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION Behold the Lamb of God, Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life. Through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE Direct, O Lord, we pray, the hearts of your faithful, and in your kindness grant your servants this grace: that, abiding in the love of you and their neighbour, they may fulfil the whole of your commands. Through Christ our Lord.

Liturgical texts: concordat cum originali: *Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin Other texts: cum permissu: *Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin. Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal. © 2010, International Committee on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Used with permission. The Jerusalem version of the Scripture is copyright Darton, Longman & Todd & Doubleday & Co. Inc. Responsorial psalms are copyright The Grail & Geoffrey Chapman Ltd. Published by Logos Publications, 26 Tolkia Valley Business Park, Ballygrogan Rd, Glasnevin, D11 WK38 Phone (01 830 6751).

focus on sunday

There is a thirst for the love, joy and meaning of the gospel in the hearts of our people today. It is sometimes ignored in the rush of modern consumerism. The readings today invite us to bring that deep thirst for life to Jesus and his gospel.

...anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again...



Focus The gospel is about a person coming to the well when nobody else came. It would be the middle of the hot day; she seems a person of poor repute and would be gossiped about in her town. It is likely she came to the well at this time to avoid other people.

She had looked for truth and love in her life, in empty places. Jesus just sat with her, listened, shared his life story and then she knew she had found living water. It was unusual she would speak to him, and the disciples were amazed he would speak to her. But wasn't he a great man for conversations with all sorts of people? His mission was to save all of us not just some of us.

The living water is like the times when you get a real sense of love; of knowing very well another person and being known, warts and all; of finding the truth; of courage and endurance, of growing in faith. The living water lasts.

Jesus offers this in prayer and in the Mass and in the sacraments. The living water is commonly thought of as the Holy Spirit. In the coming weeks the Gospel will cover three great symbols of our faith – water (the woman at the well), light (the man born blind) and life (Lazarus).

Whatever it did for her brought her running back to town, a woman who spoke to nobody and was looked down on. One of the first to spread the gospel. She was a new witness to Jesus. She said little except that the joy of her life brought people to him.

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