

**Sunday, March 8**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - Year A**

**FIRST READING**

*A reading from the Book of Exodus 17:3-7*

In those days, in their thirst for water,  
the people grumbled against Moses,  
saying, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt?

Was it just to have us die here of thirst  
with our children and our livestock?"

So Moses cried out to the LORD,  
"What shall I do with this people?  
A little more and they will stone me!"

The LORD answered Moses,  
"Go over there in front of the people,  
along with some of the elders of Israel,  
holding in your hand, as you go,  
the staff with which you struck the river.

I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb.  
Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it  
for the people to drink."

This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel.  
The place was called Massah and Meribah,  
because the Israelites quarreled there  
and tested the LORD, saying,  
"Is the LORD in our midst or not?"

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

**SECOND READING**

*A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 5:1-2, 5-8*

Brothers and sisters:

Since we have been justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
through whom we have gained access by faith  
to this grace in which we stand,  
and we boast in hope of the glory of God.

And hope does not disappoint,  
because the love of God has been poured out into our  
hearts  
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.  
For Christ, while we were still helpless,  
died at the appointed time for the ungodly.  
Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,  
though perhaps for a good person one might even find  
courage to die.  
But God proves his love for us  
in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

The word of the Lord.

## **GOSPEL**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42*

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar,  
near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.  
Jacob's well was there.  
Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well.  
It was about noon.

A woman of Samaria 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,  
"How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?"  
—For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.—  
Jesus answered and said to her,  
"If you knew the gift of God  
and who 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 do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep;  
where then can you get this living water?  
Are you greater than our father Jacob,  
who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself  
with his children and his flocks?"  
Jesus answered and said to her,