

Service for Week 2nd-8th March
Third Sunday in Lent World Day of
Prayer Friday 6th March 2026 By
Chaplain Andy



Our Opening Prayer

Loving God, we pray for the people where religious differences are used to fuel conflicts and war. We

pray for Isreal and Gaza, Pakistan, Nigeria, Sudan and the many other places in our world. We ask Lord during this time of Lent for your love and Spirit to bring reconciliation and healing. **Amen**

Say to yourself - The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven

Amen

Bible Reading John 4:5-26

So, he (Jesus) came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have

given you living water." "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we



worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

Holy words, Holy Wisdom,

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

It was because of the religious differences between Jews and the Samaritans that they would have nothing to do with each other. But Jesus as we read goes against convention and talks to the Samaritan woman he meets by the well.

In our world today prejudices and convention prevents people living together in harmony. Think about our news reports when we hear about religious differences being used to influence opinion and stir up trouble. In many countries today it is used as an excuse for conflict and wars.

Samaria is now part of Israel and there are approx. 8-900 Samaritans living today. Samaritans considered the place to worship God was on Mount Gerizim and the Jews thought God should be worshiped at the Temple in Jerusalem. We don't know the woman's name but

she is traditionally called Photina. Jesus told her that true worshipers will have no need to go to those places in future because you don't have to go up a mountain, visit a temple or a church to find and worship God. You can find God anywhere by accepting his Spirit and his truth in your life. Jesus tells Photina that if she comes to realize who he was he would share God's Spirit and truth with her which he described as 'living water' but she did not understand.

Jesus knew all about the Photina's life just as he knows all about our own lives. She told him that a person was coming who would explain everything. Everything about our lives and God's love and purpose for us. Jesus tells Photina, and us, that he is that person, the one she had been waiting for.

Later in John's gospel we read that Jesus stayed for two days. Then the people there told Photina "we believe, not because of what you told us, but because now we have heard for ourselves and know that this man has brought the truth of God to our world."

Amen

Our Closing Prayer

Lord of all, grant that a time will come when divisions will be overcome, evil conquered and hatred ended; a day when people everywhere will live in harmony and enjoy lasting peace.

Amen.

Prayer inspired by Prayerfully Yours by Nick Fawcett