

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

*Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's,
Warrington*



3rd Sunday of Lent (A)

12 March 2023

Introductory Rites

Entrance Procession

Grant to us, O Lord, a heart renewed (220)

Greeting & Introduction

Penitential Act

Music: Kyrie – Missa Brevis (Palestrina)

Collect

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. 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.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95

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

- 1 Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord;
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.
- 2 Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the Lord who made us.
For he is our God, and we are the people he
shepherds, the flock he guides.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

Gospel

(John 4: 5-42)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' '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.'

At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised
to find him speaking to a woman, though none of
them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are
you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar
and hurried back to the town to tell the people. 'Come
and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I
wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of
the town and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do
have something to eat; but he said, 'I have food to eat
that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked
one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?'
But Jesus said:

'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me,
and to complete his work.
Have you not got a saying:
Four months and then the harvest?
Well, I tell you:
Look around you, look at the fields;
already they are white, ready for harvest!
Already the reaper is being paid his wages,
already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life,
and thus sower and reaper rejoice together.
For here the proverb holds good:
one sows, another reaps;
I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for.
Others worked for it;
and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.'

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.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Profession of Faith

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

We believe in God the Son,

**who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Bidding Prayers

Response after each intention:

Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Music: Excerpt from Organ Concerto 13 in F – Handel

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, Holy – Mass of Christ our Saviour (Dan Schutte)

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

The Mystery of Faith

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

Sign of Peace

Please understand if others don't wish to shake hands
just now.

Communion

Song: There is a longing in our hearts (941)

Prayer after Communion

Lord our God,
you feed us in this life with bread from heaven,
the pledge and foreshadowing of future glory;
grant that the working of this sacrament within us
may bear fruit in our daily lives.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Final Song

O Lord my God (721) omit verse 2

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