

## THE WORD OF GOD

(Sunday Take-home Insert – Third Sunday in Lent IRCL)

### Collect

*Presider:* The Lord is with you.

*Assembly:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Let us pray together:

**God of the desert,  
Strike the rock of our hearts  
So that we might be a people who hunger  
    To do your will with each person we meet;  
So that we might be a people who thirst  
    To receive your words from the mouth of a stranger;  
May we know for ourselves  
Your compassionate path  
As the only way of Holy Hope. Amen.**

*A period of silence for reflection follows each lesson and the sermon. Allow your attention to drop in and down and rest upon your breath. When distractions arise – such as thoughts and sounds and smells – simply notice and return to the breath.*

### Hebrew Scriptures

### Exodus 17:1-7

*Reader:* A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Israelites left the desert of Syn to travel by stages, as Our God had directed them. They camped at Rephidim, but found no drinking water. Again they turned on Moses, saying, “Give us drinking water.” Moses replied, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test Our God?” But the people were thirsty, and complained even more to Moses. “Why did you bring us out of Egypt only to make us and our children and our livestock die of thirst?” Moses appealed to Our God. “What am I to do with these people? They are ready to stone me!” Our God answered Moses, “Take some of the elders and move to the front of the people. Take with you the staff with which you struck the Nile. Go! I will wait for you there by the rock of Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders. Moses named the place Massah, “Testing,” and Meribah, “Quarreling,” for the Israelites tested Our God when they said, “Is Our God with us or not?”

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

*Assembly:* **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn *Come to the Water*

*We stand as able.*

**The Gospel**

**John 4:5-42**

*Deacon:* A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

*Assembly:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus stopped at Sychar, a town in Samaria, near the tract of land Jacob had given to his son Joseph, and Jacob's well was there. Jesus, weary from the journey, came and sat by the well. It was around noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." The disciples had gone off to the town to buy provisions. The Samaritan woman replied, "You're a Jew. How can you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?" – since Jews had nothing to do with Samaritans. Jesus answered, "If only you recognized God's gift, and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him for a drink instead, and he would have given you living water." "If you please," she challenged Jesus, "you don't have a bucket and this well is deep. Where do you expect to get this 'living water'? Surely you don't pretend to be greater than our ancestors Leah and Rachel and Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it with their descendants and flocks?" Jesus replied, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give them will never be thirsty; no, the water I give will become fountains within them, springing up to provide eternal life." The woman said to Jesus, "Give me this water, so that I won't grow thirsty and have to keep coming all the way here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband and then come back here." "I don't have a husband," replied the woman. "You're right – you don't have a husband!" Jesus exclaimed. "The fact is, you've had five, and the man you're living with now is not your husband. So what you've said is quite true." "I can see you're a prophet," answered the woman. "Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you people claim that Jerusalem is the place where God ought to be worshiped." Jesus told her, "Believe me, the hour is coming when you'll worship Abba God neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you don't understand; we worship what we do understand – after all, salvation is from the Jewish people. Yet the hour is coming – and is already here – when real worshipers will worship Abba God in Spirit and truth. Indeed, it is just such worshipers whom Abba God seeks. God is Spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Jesus, "I know that the Messiah – the Anointed One – is coming, and will tell us everything." Jesus replied, "I who speak to you am the Messiah." The disciples, returning at this point, were shocked to find Jesus having a private conversation with a woman. But no one dared to ask, "What do you want of him?" or "Why are you talking with her?" The woman then left her water jar and went off into the town. She said to the people, "Come and see someone who told me everything I have ever done! Could this be the Messiah?" At that, everyone set out from town to meet Jesus. Meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus, "Rabbi, eat something." But Jesus told them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." At this, the disciples said to one another, "Do you think someone has brought him something to eat?" Jesus explained to them, "Doing the will of the One who sent me and bringing this work to completion is my food."

Don't you have a saying, 'Four months more and it will be harvest time'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields – they're ripe and ready for harvest! Reapers are already collecting their wages; they're gathering fruit for eternal life, and sower and reaper will rejoice together. So the saying is true: One person sows; another reaps.' I have sent you to reap what you haven't worked for. Others have done the work, and you've come upon the fruits of their labor." Many Samaritans from that town believed in Jesus on the strength of the woman's testimony – that "he told me everything I ever did." The result was that, when these Samaritans came to Jesus, they begged him to stay with them awhile. So Jesus stayed there two days, and through his own spoken word many more came to faith. They told the woman, "No longer does our faith depend on your story. We've heard for ourselves, and we know that this really is the savior of the world."

*Deacon:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

*Assembly:* **Thanks be to God.**

The readings are taken from *The Inclusive Hebrew Scriptures Vol. I, II, and III* and *The Inclusive New Testament* with © permission from: Priests for Equality/Quixote Center, P.O. Box 5206 Hyattsville, MD 20782 301-699-0042. Collect is by Kevin G. Thew Forrester.

**WELCOME!**

We welcome all visitors and guests this morning. After the service, you are invited to the Great Room on the lower level (accessible by stairs or elevator) for coffee and conversation.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Hospitalization Contacts:**

Kai Carrigan		249-9829	<a href="mailto:kairri@chartermi.net">kairri@chartermi.net</a>
Marcia Franz		226-2830	<a href="mailto:mqlake@yahoo.com">mqlake@yahoo.com</a>
Bob Railey		226-9617	<a href="mailto:rmrailey@excite.com">rmrailey@excite.com</a>
Leon Jarvis	Hospital Chaplain	225-0338	<a href="mailto:lj Jarvis@mgh.org">lj Jarvis@mgh.org</a>
Judy Britton	Nursing Home Contact	346-6852	<a href="mailto:rbritton@nmu.edu">rbritton@nmu.edu</a>

**Wardens**

Al Raymond	Senior Warden	249-3534	<a href="mailto:alrayusma@charter.net">alrayusma@charter.net</a>
Tom Feller	Junior Warden	486-9967	<a href="mailto:Tompfeller@aol.com">Tompfeller@aol.com</a>

**Ministry Support Team**

**Communications**

Meg Goodrich	<b>Communications Coordinator</b>	226-8920	<a href="mailto:mgoodrich@charter.net">mgoodrich@charter.net</a>
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**Liturgy**

Bob Railey	<b>Worship Coordinator</b>	226-9617	<a href="mailto:rmrailey@excite.com">rmrailey@excite.com</a>
Vince Reed	<b>Worship Coordinator</b>	228-7333	<a href="mailto:vincentreed@gmail.com">vincentreed@gmail.com</a>

**Mutual (Pastoral) Care**

Marcia Franz	<b>Mutual Care Coordinator</b>	226-2830	<a href="mailto:mqlake@yahoo.com">mqlake@yahoo.com</a>
Coralie Hambleton	<b>Mutual Care Coordinator</b>	869-2046	<a href="mailto:cvhamblet@hotmail.com">cvhamblet@hotmail.com</a>

**Outreach (All Are Welcome)**

Kai Carrigan	<b>Outreach Coordinator</b>	249-9829	<a href="mailto:kairri@chartermi.net">kairri@chartermi.net</a>
Pat Micklow	<b>Outreach Coordinator</b>	249-3479	<a href="mailto:dunetop@chartermi.net">dunetop@chartermi.net</a>

24 February 2008

**Stewardship**  
Al Raymond

**Stewardship Coordinator**

249-3534

[alrayusma@charter.net](mailto:alrayusma@charter.net)

## TODAY'S HOSPITALITY AND WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Presider: Rise Thew Forrester  
Preacher: Rise Thew Forrester  
Deacon: Larry Shell  
Organist: Vince Reed  
First Reader:  
Second Reader:  
Prayers of the People:  
Chalice Bearers:  
Ushers:  
Server:  
Altar Guild: Bertha Loehde and Jacquey Shellenbarger  
Nursery Attendant:  
Coffee Hour Hosts:  
Evening Prayer Officiant: Mary Sullivan  
Children's Ministry: Jim Edwards, Cathy Greer Cole, and Nancy Railey  
Eucharistic Visitors: Marcia Franz to MGH and Bob Railey to Hugh Kahler

## THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Eucharist: Third Week of Lent Annual Meeting	10:30am 12:00pm
Monday	25 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Eucharist: St. Matthias	5:30pm
Tuesday	26 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Meditation Evening Meditation Inter-Spiritual Dialogue (Healing Arts Center)	8:00am 5:30pm 7:00pm
Wednesday	27 <sup>th</sup>	Evening Prayer Soup Supper (Sponsor: Liturgical Leaders)	5:30pm 6:00pm
Thursday	28 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Meditation	8:00am

### **THE ANNUAL REPORT IS AVAILABLE**

Please pick-up a copy of the Annual Report. Please sign the sheet letting us know you got one. Also, a copy of the Annual Report is available online at <http://www.stpaulsmqt.org/>. Just click on the "2007 Annual Report" Link on the homepage.

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting will take place *Today* following Sunday Service. The topics this year are to assess where we stand on the question of how will the commissioned Ministry Support Team work, and to address where do we go from here? The format will be a brief presentation by a Ministry Support Team leader from each of the five relationships: Liturgy, Formation, Outreach, Mutual Care, and Stewardship. In addition, the role of communication will be discussed. Following the presentations, there will be an open

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discussion. One hopes the result will be to determine if we are on the right track or if any course changes are suggested.

**PARISH FORUM ON "STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATION" NEXT SUNDAY**

Next Sunday, March 2, after church, in the chapel, we will have the (postponed) conversation about the most recent of our introductions of modern language liturgical texts: On Sundays throughout the Epiphany and Lenten seasons, we have been using the "Affirmation of Faith" from New Zealand's 1989 Prayer Book in place of the traditional Nicene Creed; some of us who officiate at Evening Prayer have been using it for about a year. Following a very short presentation comparing the theologies and world-views implied by traditional and modern liturgical texts, the gathering will be open to questions and observations regarding our experience with this text and with others that have been introduced at St. Paul's over the past several years.

**SPRING QUARTER SCHEDULE NOW POSTED FOR SIGN-UP/AVAILABILITY**

The April through June sign-up/availability listing is posted on the "sign-up bulletin board" (hallway by restrooms) for those who serve in a wide variety of roles on Sundays. You may use the schedule to sign-up for specific dates and/or indicate which Sundays you should not be scheduled. You may use the roster lists to increase/decrease your participation in any of these activities. I am especially looking for additional coffee hour hosts. The schedule will remain posted through March 16. Spring Quarter schedules will be distributed beginning March 22. If you have any questions contact Bob Railey.

**DONATION ENVELOPES FOR EASTER FLOWERS NOW AVAILABLE**

Envelopes for Easter flower donations (with space for memorial and/or thanksgiving notations) are available in the pews and at the usher stations during the remaining Sundays of Lent. March 16 (Palm Sunday) is the final date for making such donations. Please indicate clearly whether your donation is a memorial, a thanksgiving, or for some other purpose.

**EPISCOPAL MINISTRY DISCERNMENT TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION**

The North Central Region discerned the following people as our representatives on the EMDT (please contact with any questions, concerns, observations):

Mary Sullivan – St. Paul's, Marquette  
Phone: 249-9410  
Email: [marysullivan54@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marysullivan54@sbcglobal.net)

Sharon Stenglein – St. James the Less, Harvey  
Phone: 249-1504  
Email: [ssaldie34@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ssaldie34@sbcglobal.net)

Judy Britton – Holy Innocents, Little Lake  
Phone: 346-6852  
Email: [rbritton@nmu.edu](mailto:rbritton@nmu.edu)

Kathy Lenten – St. John's, Negaunee  
Phone: 225-1078  
Email: [klenten@charter.net](mailto:klenten@charter.net)

In addition, on January 27<sup>th</sup> and February 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Paul's hosted two opportunities for members of the congregation to gather for conversations concerning the future shape of Episcopal ministry in the diocese.

Kevin Thew Forrester facilitated the conversations, which ran from about Noon-1:30 p.m. in the Great Room. We were aided by materials developed by the diocese, especially a DVD presentation.