



12 March 2023
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - A



INTRODUCTION:

We all thirst for ultimate happiness; and when we don't seem to find it, we tend to complain and at times, even get disgruntle with God. Often, when this thirst is not quenched (because we seem to be searching in all the wrong places), we are tempted to go back to stagnant pools that momentarily satisfied us. The Liturgy of the Word, today, invites us to open ourselves to our God, so that we may be quenched with the streams of living water that come from Him alone.

READINGS:

First Reading: Exodus 17: 3-7
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 95: 1-2, 6-7, 8-9
Second Reading: Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8
Gospel: John 4: 5-42

UNIVERSAL PRAYER:

CELEBRANT: Father, fountain of life, as we humbly place our petitions before You today, we are confident that in Your loving providence, You will grant the longings of our soul. Our response is:

Hear our prayer, O Lord

For the Ministers of the Church – that through their teaching of the Sacred Scriptures, they may create within the hearts of the faithful, an enduring thirst for the Word of God. *(Brief silent pause)* We pray to the Lord.

For those in governance – that they may use the authority and resources given to them to create a just society, that ensures the welfare of all its citizens. *(Brief silent pause)* We pray to the Lord.

For all Christians – that before the shame and guilt of our sin dries our souls, we may, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, allow God's abundant mercy and love to flood our lives. *(Brief silent pause)* We pray to the Lord.

For all children and youth appearing for exams – that God may fill them with His Spirit of wisdom and understanding, and lead them to express to the best of their ability all that they have learned. *(Brief silent pause)* We pray to the Lord.

For each of us being nourished by Word and Sacrament at this Eucharistic celebration – that that we may be channels of God's overflowing love to all around. *(Brief silent pause)* We pray to the Lord.

For our personal intentions and for those who have asked us to pray for them, we pray in silence. *(Longer silent pause)* We pray to the Lord.

CELEBRANT: Lord, we thank You for offering us 'Living Water' that will quench our every thirst. May we meet You in the heat of our day, in the trials of our lives, and in the shame and guilt of our sin; and may we encounter Your love, gentleness and acceptance in these moments. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.