

A Service of Home Morning Prayer
English-Speaking United Methodist Church of Vienna
15 March 2020 • Third Sunday in Lent

The household gathers together

GATHERING

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my thoughts.

HYMN—Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty

(sing along with a YouTube version of the song - <https://youtu.be/JwuDSw-9cUQ>)

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

PRAYER

Almighty God, we open our hearts to you. As we worship you at home today, may the Holy Spirit be with us. May your presence in our lives and in our homes be known. Calm our fears and anxieties. Teach us your ways. Grant us your peace which passes all understanding. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—John 4:5-42 (The Samaritan Woman Encounters Jesus at Jacob's Well)

⁵He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." ⁸His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food.

⁹The Samaritan woman asked, "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (Jews and Samaritans didn't associate with each other.)

¹⁰Jesus responded, "If you recognized God's gift and who is saying to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would be asking him and he would give you living water."

¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you don't have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water? ¹²You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

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¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life.”

¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, get your husband, and come back here.”

¹⁷ The woman replied, “I don’t have a husband.”

“You are right to say, ‘I don’t have a husband,’” Jesus answered. ¹⁸ “You’ve had five husbands, and the man you are with now isn’t your husband. You’ve spoken the truth.”

¹⁹ The woman said, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you and your people say that it is necessary to worship in Jerusalem.”

²¹ Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you and your people will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You and your people worship what you don’t know; we worship what we know because salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the time is coming—and is here!—when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. The Father looks for those who worship him this way. ²⁴ God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth.”

²⁵ The woman said, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the one who is called the Christ. When he comes, he will teach everything to us.”

²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I Am—the one who speaks with you.”^[a]

²⁷ Just then, Jesus’ disciples arrived and were shocked that he was talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” ²⁸ The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ “Come and see a man who has told me everything I’ve done! Could this man be the Christ?” ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to see Jesus.

³¹ In the meantime the disciples spoke to Jesus, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”

³² Jesus said to them, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.”

³³ The disciples asked each other, “Has someone brought him food?”

³⁴ Jesus said to them, “I am fed by doing the will of the one who sent me and by completing his work. ³⁵ Don’t you have a saying, ‘Four more months and then it’s time for harvest’? Look, I tell you: open your eyes and notice that the fields are already ripe for the harvest. ³⁶ Those who harvest are receiving their pay and gathering fruit for eternal life so that those who sow and those who harvest can celebrate together. ³⁷ This is a true saying, that one sows and another harvests. ³⁸ I have sent you to harvest what you didn’t work hard for; others worked hard, and you will share in their hard work.”

³⁹ Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman’s word when she testified, “He told me everything I’ve ever done.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ Many more believed because of his word, ⁴² and they said to the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world.”

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REFLECTION

See Pastor Matthew's sermon reflection sheet with discussion questions. If you are worshipping at home with other people, use the questions for a discussion about the text. If you are worshipping alone, use the questions during a time of silent reflection, or call a friend to discuss the questions.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(read aloud)*

Let us affirm our faith.

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating;
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new;
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God's presence;
to live with respect in creation;
to love and serve others;
to seek justice and resist evil;
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(silently or aloud)*

Today, we pray

for those affected by the COVID-19 coronavirus— for those diagnosed with the virus, for medical professionals who care for affected patients, for those in quarantine and unable to be with family and friends, and for those who feel isolated and distressed;

for our leaders in Austria—President Van der Bellen, Chancellor Kurz, government ministers, justices of the courts, members of parliament—that God may grant them wisdom, prudence, and foresight to make good decisions;

for asylum-seekers and refugees that God may grant them protection and safe harbor;

for our congregation—the English-Speaking United Methodist Church of Vienna;

for ourselves that God grant us love, peace, and faith at this anxious time.

We also pray for *(add your personal prayers).....*

Gathering the prayers of our lips and the prayers of our hearts, we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BLESSING *(read aloud)*

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all,
now and forever. Amen.