

# Readings at Mass for the Third Sunday of Lent (Year A)

## FIRST READING

EXODUS 17.3-7

A reading from the Book, Exodus

In those days: *The people thirsted for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' And the Lord said to Moses, 'Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.' And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarrelling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 95(94). 1-2, 6-7B, 7C-9; R. vv. 7C, 8A

**R. O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts.'**

Come, let us ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who save us.

Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;  
let us hail him with a song of praise. **R.**

O come; let us bow and bend low.

Let us kneel before the Lord who made us,  
for he is our God, and we the people,  
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!

*'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your forebears put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'* **R.**

## SECOND READING

ROMANS 5.1-2, 5-8

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Brothers and sisters:* Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God; and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts, through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die - but God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**R. Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!**

**In your deep floods, drown all my faults and fears; nor let your eye see sin, but through my tears. R.**

## GOSPEL

JOHN 4.5-42

*'A spring of water, welling up to eternal life'*

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

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

*The numbers of this evening's Entrance and Offertory hymns are displayed on the boards on the pillars.*

*This evening's incense is Desert Flower*