



**Church At Home**  
**St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario**  
**Lent III** **March 8, 2026**

**Prayer of the Day**

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**The Holy Gospel: John 4:5-41**

So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, 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 know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on

their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

## **Homily**

I greet you in the name of Jesus, the One who died for us. Amen.

This maybe an odd way to begin a homily, as I have shared many things about myself and about my life.....so why should this morning be any different than any other day. I enjoy stories and quite frankly the longer with more detail; the better. I have had the privilege to hear many of your stories of life and these I treasure and hold so close to my heart. I believe when we share our stories, we are opening ourselves to others and inviting them into a sacred and hallowed place. These are our stories, with our feelings and our emotions. These are our stories and no one else's.

Stories often begin with something out of place, or with some kind of conflict, or with some obstacles to overcome. The story of The Woman at the Well in John's Gospel bears this out.

We hear this from the start when we are told that Jesus is in Samaria. Jesus is out of his usual territory. Jesus is out of place. In the heat of the mid-day sun Jesus by himself comes to Jacob's Well for a rest, for a drink. This well is deep; over one hundred feet deep.

Jesus is met by a woman from the town of Sychar. Unlike Nicodemus of last week's story, who is a Pharisee, a leader and sneaks through the streets of Jerusalem undercover at night, this marginal Samaritan woman, carrying her clay water jug and along rope comes to the well.

Jesus does the unthinkable! He speaks to her and asks her for a drink. Jews and Samaritans had been in a long-standing conflict. It was not customary for them to speak in public especially a Jewish man and a Samaritan woman in public. But Jesus was not just any man. He was a rabbi, a further limitation on his public behavior. Jesus is out of place.

And this was no ordinary woman. This was a Samaritan woman, an outcast of sorts, a near non-person who existed well outside the margins of society. Her story seems depressing. We read into the story her life has been of a sinful behavior. This nameless woman has had numerous relationships. We are not given much detail but we do know she has five husbands without

much to show for it. Every day she goes to a well and is reminded of her struggles and pain. The Samaritan woman is out of place.

It is here that we often turn this account into a story of repentance. Today, I believe this path is out of place. This story is not about a life from immorality to one of morality. This story is not about a woman with a shady past; repenting, turning her life around but a story of life-giving faith.

We seem to spend much of our time with the one verse, “You have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband” that the truth is; we forget that there are another thirty-six verses to the story.

If we listen closely, we realize that neither John as the narrator nor Jesus tells us her condition is a result of sinful behavior. Jesus at no point invites this woman to repent or speaks of her sin at all. She very easily could have been widowed or have been abandoned or divorced. Five times would be heartbreaking, you have to agree, but not impossible. And now, she is living with someone that she depends on.

This scene and its all-too-common interpretation interrupts and distracts us from the rest of the story. We must keep in mind that in John’s gospel “seeing” is an important theological activity. To “see” is often connected with belief. When the Samaritan woman said, “I see that you are a prophet”, she is making a confession of her faith.

Why does she make this confession.....because Jesus also sees her! He has seen her dilemma. This woman has pretty much everything stacked against her: she is a Samaritan in this Jewish story, a woman in a male-dominated world, has lived a challenging and tragic life and very dependent on others. Yet Jesus has seen her. He has recognized her, spoken with her, she exists for him. This woman not only exists but for Jesus has worth, value, significance – all treatment to which she is not accustomed.

In this encounter with Jesus her life has been transformed. She leaves her jars at the well behind, possibly symbolic of all the chores and difficulties of her life, to run into town to share with others of a new and different life and what the living water of God has done for her.

What holds you back from living the life God has prepared for you? What are the jars we would like to leave behind; trading our past tragedies and present challenges for the living water Jesus offers? What are in those jars; a broken or unfulfilling or no relationship with a spouse, parent or child; a job that is leading nowhere; a job that is bound by unrealistic demands; or perhaps trying to find one or a past wound from a relationship or fear.....fear about the future; perhaps it is anxiety or guilt all caused by life’s situations and moments, or perhaps it is grief or sadness.

This morning, I would invite you to take a moment and name these challenges by writing them on the card in your Guide to Worship. Naming our challenges and praying about them will give us a chance to invite God more deeply into our lives.

Now, put that card in your pocket and take it home and pray.

It is now time to pray..... please repeat after me.....

Dear God, you want for us only good things and yet sometimes we have a hard time accepting your gifts and being the people you have called us to be. Help us let go of those things that hold us back, remind us of your unfailing love, and create in us the hope and courage to drink the living water you offer and live into the future you have created. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

My friends in Christ. Jesus shows up in surprising places and offers to displace our jars filled with everyday challenges with living water to anyone who is thirsty and willing to accept. May we be the ones who run and tell others. Amen.

### **Lord's Prayer**

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 and ever. Amen.

### **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,  
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

Prayers used by permission by Augsburg Fortress – Sundays and Seasons

## *STTLC COMMUNIQUE*

**In Our Prayers Today.....**Nancy Briscoe, Mike Harrington, Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Bobby Keuhl, Adele Krieger, Tracy Schori and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

**We are doing it again! Lenten Food Drive** – in support of St. Joseph's Food Bank starts today and will continue until Easter. If you are able, please support this drive as the need is great. Watch as the table in the entrance grows with food as we support others. (Please check the expiry dates on the items.) Also, clean, empty egg cartons (one dozen size) are now being accepted as these can be re-used.

Please note.....cash donations should be given directly to them and not through offering envelopes. Thank you.

**Camp Lutherlyn Camper Sponsorships** – St. Timothy's is sponsoring up to 5 children/youth for 1 Week each at Camp Lutherlyn this summer. You can obtain an Application Form from the church office and you can register your child online at [lutherlyncamp.ca](http://lutherlyncamp.ca) and then going to the Registration Page.

## **Lenten Services at St. Timothy's**

Our Lenten journey with our Lord to the cross has begun. This season of Lent prepares us for our Easter celebrations. It reminds us that to rise with Jesus we have to first die with Jesus. Midweek Lenten Services will be held each Wednesday during Lent at 7:00 pm. We will be joined by the congregation of The Parish of the Valley Anglican. Come, bring a friend and worship and then join in a time of coffee and fellowship in Jubilee Hall following the service.



### ***Annual Congregational Meeting***

**Jubilee Hall**

**Sunday, March 22, 2026**

**following our morning worship**

**Reports Available Today**

Purpose of the meeting:

- Approve Minutes from 2025 Congregational meetings
- Approve the 2026 Budget
- Approve the 2026 Investment Plan
- Transact other business as required

Thank you for your participation in the life of the congregation