

## FIRST READING

### **A Reading from the Book of Numbers, from the Torah**

20:1-13

In the first month of the year, which was for the Hebrews the first month of Spring, the whole Israelite community arrived at the Desert of Zin. They stayed at Kadesh, which means "Holy Place." There, Miriam died and was buried. Miriam was a leader among the Israelites along with Aaron and Moses, her brothers.

Now, there was no water for the community in Kadesh. The people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron, for they thirsted for water. They quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." The people complained, "If only we'd died when we were in captivity in Egypt! Did you bring us, God's people, into this desert, so that we and our children and our livestock should die here? Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, no grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!"

Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and fell prostrate, face down. The glory of God appeared to them. God said to Moses, "Take the staff and call the people together. Speak to the rock around which they will gather, and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community, so that all and their livestock can drink."

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So Moses took the staff, which had remained in the Tent, just as God had commanded. Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together around the rock. Moses said to them: “Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?” Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the entire community and their livestock drank. And so, from the rock under which Miriam had been buried, waters flowed in a running stream for the people.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

*Thanks be to God.*

**PSALM**

*Psalm 83, stanza three, N. Merrill*

*The psalm response\* is sung:*

***When trouble comes, do not be silent.***

***When trouble comes, be not afraid.***

***R: When trouble comes, do not be silent.***

***When trouble comes, be not afraid.***

O Great Creator, do not keep silence.

Do not withhold your peace or be still,

O Giver of Life!

***R: When trouble comes, do not be silent.***

***When trouble comes, be not afraid.***

Who will succor those without shelter,

orphaned children who are starving,

those cast aside by decisions based on greed?

***R: When trouble comes, do not be silent.***

***When trouble comes, be not afraid.***

Who will speak on their behalf?

Let all with faith-filled hearts rise up with Love.

***R: When trouble comes, do not be silent.***

***When trouble comes, be not afraid.***

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\* Response taken from the jazz-blues musical rendition of Psalm 83 on *Psalms Reborn, Vol. II*, by Charles Marohnic [www.musicservingtheword.org](http://www.musicservingtheword.org) or [www.chuckmarohnic.com](http://www.chuckmarohnic.com)

You are invited to substitute another response although the CCL recommends a sung response.

## SECOND READING

### A Reading from tRev. Lenny Duncan's Love Letter to the Church

Dear Church,

You have one foot firmly planted in an 1,800-year-old apostolic tradition and the other one tentatively searching for the firm ground to step on in God's future. You are amazing, Church...

We must take the lead, Church. Us. There is no one else. We have been waiting for this nation to awaken from its slumber, to be aroused by the death and destruction that seem to be every notification on our phones for the last decade. But if you are reading this, I have bad news. You are the leader you have been waiting for. We are called through baptism to teach the Holy Scriptures, to teach the world about the power of prayer. Now is the time to renounce the forces that oppose God and defy grace. We need to stand up.

This may mean that you go to your pastor and say you want to hear about slain unarmed black men in the sermon. This may mean that you are going to be really uncomfortable. But white discomfort is not worse than experiencing racism as a black person. This may mean that you will have to hold this church accountable to its own belief that racism is a sin.

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The way of the cross in the twenty-first century is to gather our best leaders and our best minds for one purpose: to dismantle white supremacy.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

***Thanks be to God.***

## GOSPEL

**A Reading from the Gospel attributed to John 4:5-30, 39-40**

*Glory to you, O God.*

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob and Rachel had given to their son, Joseph. Rachel and Jacob's well was there. It was the well where Rachel had been drawing water for her sheep when she first met Jacob who was a sojourner in that land.

Jesus, weary from his journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink". (The disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Judean. I am a Samaritan and a woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (Judeans were told not to associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink', you would have asked me for a drink. I would then have given you *living* water." The woman said to Jesus, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where do you get that flowing water from? Are you greater than our ancestors Rachel and Jacob, who gave us this well, and drank from it themselves along with their children and their flocks?" Jesus responded, "Whoever drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give will become in them a spring of water welling up to life everlasting." 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'. You've had five husbands, and the one whom you care for now is not your husband. What

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you've said is true!” The woman replied, “Sir, I see that you are a seer, a prophet. You should know, then, that our ancestors worshipped on this mountain; but you Judeans say that the place people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Believe me, dear woman, the hour is coming when you will worship God neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem... The time is coming, and is now here, when true worshippers will worship our Loving God in spirit and truth. Indeed, God seeks worshippers such as these. God is Spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to Jesus, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ. The Messiah will tell us everything.” Jesus said to her, “I am the Messiah, the one speaking to you.”

Just then Jesus' disciples returned. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said to her, “What do you want?” or to Jesus, “Why are you speaking with her?”

The woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see someone who told me everything I have ever done! Could this be the Messiah?” They left the city and went to Jesus.

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. He stayed there two days.

The Gospel of Our God.

*Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.*