

Scripture Prayer For The Week

"Once...
when Jesus...
was praying alone..." (Luke 9:18)



Artwork Dorothy Woodward

Lent Year A Week 3

We Gather: In the prayer space, have the bible opened at the Gospel reading. The stand or table is draped with Lenten purple. A wooden bucket and pottery cup could be placed on the prayer tables. The ash bowl may still be on the table.

Leader: Come, ring out our joy to the Lord.
All: Hail the rock, our God, who saves us.

Leader: Come in: let us bow and bend low.
All: For this is our God and we the people, God's flock.

We Listen: The Gospel. John 4: 5-15 Shorter part of the Sunday Gospel

Read the gospel passage reflectively. After a time of silent reflection, the line from scripture below could be repeated and the short commentary read.

"The water I will give will be in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." Jn 4:14

Commentary: What marvellous imagery seems to burst from Jesus as he confesses to the woman at the well his understanding of the Spirit of God that dwells in him and who swells up, pulled by the gravity of love to bring freedom to thirsty people. In the dry land of Palestine, the preciousness of full and active springs of water is certainly the most important image of sustainable life. Gushing springs feed the wells and women like this one are life-bearers of the water of life. The woman at the well is Everyone-thirsty for the Spirit, carrier of hope and sharer of the cup of promise. Turn your face to the Spirit spray.

We Respond: "The water I will give."

In silence, reflect on the questions below? You may wish to have a time of brief sharing.

- Jesus thirsted for wholeness and shared love. What do I thirst for?
- What in our created world are images that speak to me powerfully of a God I can love?

Song: Waters of Life (M Brown-Quiet My Soul-Emmaus Productions) or We Will Draw Water (James Maher-AOVNG)

We Go Forth:

God of flowing springs and gushing wells. May we immerse ourselves in your word, in your creation and in the beauty of the brothers and sisters you have birthed so that we may share your love. So washed and refreshed, help us to be living water to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Lord, let us harden not our hearts **All:** But let us know your salvation