

*We Respond*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

**(Or)** When I prove my holiness among you, I will gather you from all the foreign lands; and I will pour clean water upon you and cleanse you from all your impurities, and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Ps 94)

**ANTIPHON:** If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

**RESPONSE: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

**LECTOR:** Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

**LECTOR:** Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

**LECTOR:** 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 fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work." **R.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

**TODAY'S READINGS** Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 94; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42

**NEXT WEEK** (4th Sunday of Lent, Year A) 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Psalm 22; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

*Want to learn more?*

*Being a Catholic Mother and Being a Catholic Grandmother: It may be that the life of a Catholic mother has never been harder where faith is concerned. If so, it has never been more important that Catholic women take time out to think deeply about what it is they do as mothers, and how and why they do it. And with contributions from many Catholic grandmothers from a range of backgrounds, Being a Catholic Grandmother is packed with first-hand accounts and insights from grandmothers who have been there and done that. Both books are available from Majellan Media for \$19.95 each (postage included) at [www.majellan.org.au](http://www.majellan.org.au)*

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## Encountering Jesus



15 March 2020 3rd Sunday Lent Year A

Going to Jacob's well was her daily chore. She went to the well with the heavy weight of the water jar on her shoulder and the heavy weight of people's judgment in her heart. That was why she chose the unusual time to come to the well, about noon.

Ordinary women from her place wouldn't come to the well at noon. They came to the well in the evening (Genesis 24:11). But she was not an ordinary woman. She was an extraordinary one. In the eyes of others in her town, she was a sinful woman, someone they would like to talk about and not talk to. She had lived with five different husbands. And now she lived with a sixth man. This might be the reason she came to the well at an unusual time. She wanted to avoid the embarrassment of people staring at her with their judgmental eyes.

Jesus chose the same time, an unusual time. The reason was similar. Jesus heard that people, especially the Pharisees started to talk about his increasing popularity. So, he decided to go back to Galilee. John writes Jesus was tired from his journey. He wanted to rest (4:6), so he went to the well at an unusual time.

But it was at a moment like this the encounter occurred. It was a very special encounter between a "sinful" woman who wanted to avoid people and the tired Lord who didn't want to be disturbed. It was an

unplanned encounter but ended up with a long conversation. If the definition of a prayer is conversation with the Lord, this is the longest prayer in the gospel.

John writes at the end of the conversation at chapter 28: "The women left her water jar and ran to the town." That was the first time in her life she went back home without the burden of her water jar on her shoulder and the burden of shame in her heart. After the encounter with Jesus, her life became lighter. Jesus has freed her from her every day burden. She ran back to the town to tell others that she has encountered the messiah and was a sinner no more.

Many of us live with our everyday burdens; marriage breakdown, the death of a loved one, unpaid bills, the unreachable dreams. We carry these heavy burdens like the Samaritan woman. Here, we have her story about the need to encounter Jesus. We too need to encounter him, tell him our story and to let him lift these burdens from our shoulder. And if we experience this kind of salvation from our encounter with him, we need to tell our story so that other people might come to him as well and find salvation.

Mans Boli CSsR  
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