

Date: March 14, 2021

Theme: Seven Last Words: THIRSTY

God's People Gather

Threshold Moment

Opening Song

You Who Are Thirsty

You who are thirsty, come to the well and drink from waters flowing.

You who are hungry, come to the bread and eat of his holiness.

You who are tired, find rest.

You who are weak, find strength.

You who are thirsty, come to the well and drink.

You who are thirsty, come to the well and drink from waters flowing.

You who are hungry, come to the bread and eat of his holiness.

You who are tired, find rest.

You who are weak, find strength.

You who are thirsty, come to the well and drink.

He will freely feed all of them who are weak.

He will quench the righteous thirst

of all who humbly seek.

Call to Confession

Jesus promised living water to us, so that we would never be thirsty. But we seek other things to fulfill our cravings. When we do, we find that we are not satisfied; our souls are still thirsty. In the waters of baptism, in the waters of mercy that flow generously in God's mercy, our souls are slaked; we can be content. Let us offer our confession, knowing that we can drink deeply from the well of grace.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we are thirsty for your grace. We have tried to drink deeply from wells that do not satisfy: waters that are poisoned by bitterness, tainted by self-serving, dried up by our endless greed. Your living water flows to us so freely in worship and mission, in giving and in prayer, but instead we have chosen to wander the dry and parched desert of life apart from you. Forgive us, God! Quench our thirst with your grace, and shape us into vessels of love, forgiveness, and generosity, so that we may pour out the good news of your living water in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silence is Kept

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Let everyone who thirsts come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. God's grace is freely and abundantly give to us in Jesus Christ!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Response

Glory to God

Glory to God,

Whose goodness shines on me,

And to the Son,

Whose grace has pardoned me,

And to the Spirit

Whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning

Is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end,

Without end. Amen.

World without end,

Without end. Amen.

World without end,

Without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning

Is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Response

Peace Song

Peace I leave with you my friends

Shalom my peace in all you do

Peace I leave with you my friends

I give to you so you can give to others too.

God's Word is Proclaimed

Children's Time

Scripture John 19:28-29

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

John 7:37-39

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Sermon

Responding to God's Word

Offering

If you are able, please continue to send in your offering and pledge. If you are enrolled in electronic funds transfer, there is no need to do anything different. If you would like to give online using Paypal, click this link: bit.ly/FPCsterling

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, in Christ, you satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst, filling our lives with your blessing, and filling our hearts with your abundant love. Help us to seek always the living water, and to freely share it. Let us be poured out as an offering for you, and use our gifts for your purposes. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

God's People are Sent

Closing Song

When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise

When we are called to sing your praise
with hearts so filled with pain
that we would rather sit and weep
or stand up to complain,

Remind us, God, you understand
the burdens that we bear;
You, too, have walked the shadowed way
and known our deep despair.

When we are called to sing your praise
and cannot find our voice,
because our losses leave us
now no reason to rejoice,

Remind us, God, that you accept
our sad laments in prayer;
You, too, have walked the shadowed way
and known our deep despair.

When we are called to sing your praise
and life ahead looks grim,
Still give us faith and hope enough
to break forth in a hymn,

A thankful hymn, great God of Love,
That you are everywhere;
You walk the shadowed way with us
and keep us in your care.

Benediction

Leader:....and let all God's people say...

People: Alleluia! Amen!