



# Third Week of Lent

(Cycle A)

## Jesus Defies Social Barriers

PHOTO: USGS.gov.

<p><b>Opening Prayer</b></p>	<p>Jesus, whenever you spoke with other people, you showed us that every person has dignity and deserves respect. You did not see others as foreigners, but as children of God who needed your love. You acknowledged their pain from any and all discrimination and showed us the dignity of every person. Give us your Living Water and send your Holy Spirit to guide your Church into a new era of equality, and respect for the human dignity of every person. Amen</p>
<p><b>Introduction</b></p>	<p>Our Gospel story today is of an encounter between a Samaritan woman Jesus, a Jew. She was shocked that Jesus would speak to her. She knew that his people looked down on Samaritans. And she belonged to a culture that treated women as inferior. He knew her shame at having had five husbands and to be living with a man who was not her husband. But women in her society were married and divorced and married again at the will of men who held all the power. She felt that she was of no importance, and yet Jesus chose her as his minister to proclaim his Good News to the people in her town.</p>
<p><b>Sharing our Stories</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Share a story of someone you know who has been discriminated against because of their gender, race or country of origin.</li> <li>2. Discuss a time when someone unexpectedly made you aware of your importance to your faith community.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Gospel Reading</b></p>	<p>Read the Gospel for Third Sunday of Lent (<a href="#">John 4:5-42</a>)</p>
<p><b>Sharing our Faith</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What does Jesus' example of dialogue with the Samaritan tell us about God's love for people who are made to feel unwanted by our community?</li> <li>2. What barriers do women face within the church today?</li> <li>3. How do you talk to your family and friends about why we need to stop judging others and start accepting them as they are?</li> <li>4. Who is the woman at the well for you and what do you need to change in your life to be ready for your own encounter with that "woman at the well"?</li> </ol>
<p><b>Going Forth</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Pray:</b> This week ask God for the grace to be aware of when and how you are judging others, and to become more open, following Jesus' example.</li> <li>2. <b>Learn more:</b> Read Sister Roselei Bertoldo's reflection on the central role of women in the life of the Church in the Amazon: <a href="https://maryknollogc.org/article/women-synod-amazon-protecting-life">https://maryknollogc.org/article/women-synod-amazon-protecting-life</a></li> <li>3. <b>Share the Journey:</b> Take some time this week to listen to someone who has left the Church because they felt discriminated against.</li> </ol>



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