

**Sunday, March 5, 2023**  
**WELCA'S Bold Women's Sunday**

First Reading            Joel 2:27-32  
Psalm                     Psalm 34:1-8  
Second Reading        2 Peter 1:17-21

**A READING FROM JOEL**

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame. Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**  
***THANKS BE TO GOD***

*Continue to next page...*

*(If the Psalm is sung by the choir, you will not be required to lead the Psalm.  
Check the day's worship bulletin to confirm one way or the other)*

## **PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING THE 34<sup>th</sup> PSALM IN UNISON**

**I will bless the LORD | at all times;  
the praise of God shall ever be | in my mouth.  
I will glory | in the LORD;  
let the lowly hear | and rejoice. R  
Proclaim with me the greatness | of the LORD;  
let us exalt God's | name together.  
I sought the LORD, who | answered me  
and delivered me from | all my terrors.  
Look upon the LORD | and be radiant,  
and let not your faces | be ashamed. R  
I called in my affliction, and | the LORD heard me  
and saved me from | all my troubles.  
The angel of the LORD encamps around those who | fear the LORD  
and de- | livers them.  
Taste and see that the | LORD is good;  
happy are they who take ref- | uge in God! R**

## **A READING FROM 2<sup>ND</sup> PETER**

For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD  
THANKS BE TO GOD**

**Sunday, March 12, 2023**  
**Third Sunday in Lent, Year A**

First Reading            Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm                     Psalm 95  
Second Reading        Romans 5:1-11

**A READING FROM EXODUS**

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**  
**THANKS BE TO GOD**

*Continue to next page...*

*(If the Psalm is sung by the choir, you will not be required to lead the Psalm.  
Check the day's worship bulletin to confirm one way or the other)*

## **PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING THE 95<sup>th</sup> PSALM IN UNISON**

- <sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing | to the LORD;  
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.**
- <sup>2</sup>Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**
- <sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, | are a great God,  
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.**
- <sup>4</sup>In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are | also yours.**
- <sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, | for you made it,  
and your hands have molded | the dry land.**
- <sup>6</sup>Come, let us worship | and bow down,  
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker. R**
- <sup>7</sup>For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture  
and the sheep | of God's hand.  
Oh, that today you would | hear God's voice!**
- <sup>8</sup>"Harden | not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah | in the desert.**
- <sup>9</sup>There your ancestors | tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.**
- <sup>10</sup>Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,  
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my  
ways.'**
- <sup>11</sup>Indeed I swore | in my anger,  
'They shall never come | to my rest.'" R**

*Continue to next page...*

## **A READING FROM ROMANS**

<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**  
***THANKS BE TO GOD***

**Sunday, March 19, 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year A**

First Reading            1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm                     Psalm 23  
Second Reading        Ephesians 5:8-14

**A READING FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> SAMUEL**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**  
**THANKS BE TO GOD**

*(If the Psalm is sung by the choir, you will not be required to lead the Psalm.  
Check the day's worship bulletin to confirm one way or the other)*

## **PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING THE 23<sup>rd</sup> PSALM IN UNISON**

**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
    he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul:  
    he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
    for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil:  
    for thou art with me;  
    thy rod and thy staff  
    they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me  
    in the presence of mine enemies:  
    thou anointest my head with oil;  
    my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
    all the days of my life:  
    and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## **A READING FROM EPHESIANS**

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

**THE WORD OF THE LORD  
THANKS BE TO GOD**

**Sunday, March 26, 2023**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent, Year A**

First Reading           Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm                    Psalm 130  
Second Reading       Romans 8:6-11

**A READING FROM EZEKIEL**

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**  
**THANKS BE TO GOD**



*(If the Psalm is sung by the choir, you will not be required to lead the Psalm.  
Check the day's worship bulletin to confirm one way or the other)*

## **PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING THE 130<sup>th</sup> PSALM IN UNISON**

**<sup>1</sup>Out | of the depths**

**I cry to | you, O LORD;**

**<sup>2</sup>O LORD, | hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my | supplication.**

**<sup>3</sup>If you were to keep watch | over sins,**

**O LORD, | who could stand?**

**<sup>4</sup>Yet with you | is forgiveness,**

**in order that you | may be feared. R**

**<sup>5</sup>I wait for you, O LORD; | my soul waits;**

**in your word | is my hope.**

**<sup>6</sup>My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch | for  
the morning,**

**more than those who keep watch | for the morning.**

**<sup>7</sup>O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is | steadfast  
love;**

**with the LORD there is plen- | teous redemption.**

**<sup>8</sup>For the LORD shall | redeem Israel**

**from | all their sins. R**

## **A READING FROM ROMANS**

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD  
THANKS BE TO GOD**