

March 8, 2026



WEEKLY LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR KEN

For this Liturgical Year, the Sunday readings are taken from the Cycle A readings, which means that we will read three special and, yes, longer, Gospels for the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent. They are each taken from the Gospel of John and are well worth reading outside of Mass and reflecting upon them.

This Sunday, the Gospel story is that of the woman at the well. There is so much in this moving and dramatic encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. She is a sinner, a troubled and burdened woman. She has to draw water at the community well, much like our brothers and sisters in Uganda, to survive. However, because of her situation, she has to go at a very inconvenient time, during the heat of the middle of the day, to avoid other people.

Some might look at this story as merely a chance meeting, in which Jesus just happened to go the well at the same time as the woman. Some might think that the human side of Jesus was merely thirsty and needed a drink. No. It is much more. We can declare that Jesus, the Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, saw this woman from all eternity, and His providence sought her out in her misery. Jesus' thirst was not for water, but for her soul. The real meaning of the story is that God seeks each one of us out, personally and individually, in our misery. He thirsts for our soul.

St. Teresa of Calcutta offers a beautiful meditation on the Lord's thirst from words she heard Jesus speak to her. Here is part of that meditation: I THIRST FOR YOU.

"It is true. I stand at the door of your heart, day and night. Even when you are not listening, even when you doubt it could be Me, I am there; waiting for even the smallest signal of your response, even the smallest suggestion of an invitation that will permit Me to enter. I come longing to console you and give you strength, to lift you up and bind all your wounds. I bring you My light, to dispel your darkness and all your doubts. I come with My power, that allows Me to carry you with My grace, to touch your heart and transform your life. I come with My peace, to calm your soul.

"I know you like the palm of My hand. I know everything about you. Even the hairs of your head I have counted. Nothing in your life is unimportant to Me. I have followed you through the years and I have always loved you even when you have strayed. I know every one of your problems. I know your needs and your worries and yes, I know all your sins...I love you for you, for the beauty and the dignity My Father gave you by creating you in His own image. ...I love you as you are, and I have shed My Blood to rescue you...I know what is in your heart, I know your loneliness and all your wounds, the rejections, the judgments, the humiliations, I carried it all before you. And I carried it all for you, so you could share My strength and My victory. I know, above all, your need for love, how much you are thirsting for love and tenderness...All your life I have been desiring your love. I've never ceased searching for your love and longing to be loved by you in return...When you finally open the doors of your heart and you finally come close enough, you will then hear Me say again and again, not in mere human words but in spirit: 'No matter what you have done, I love you for your own sake. Come to Me with your misery and your sins, with your problems and needs, and with all your desire to be loved. I stand at the door of your heart and call... Open to Me, for I THIRST FOR YOU...'"

"Jesus answered and said to her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, "Give me a drink" you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water.'" (John 4:10)