

In our gospel passage today from the book of John, Jesus says to the woman at the well that, "Everyone who drinks of this water [the well water] will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

Wow! What does Jesus mean by this? Sometimes the words that Jesus chooses are confusing. Are there really two kinds of water, or is Jesus talking about something else? Referring to it in a poetic way?

"Living water" is different from the regular water that we drink. Don't get me wrong, the water we drink is amazing, and needed for life by all living organisms. But living water is a kind of spiritual water, that feeds our spiritual thirst and gives us life too.

I believe there are two kinds of living water. This first is the forgiveness that God gives us through the crucifixion of his Son, Jesus Christ. During the season of Lent, we think about how Jesus died on the cross so that all of our sins, even the ones we haven't committed yet, could be forgiven. What a gift God has given us! Every time we take the Holy Eucharist our sins are forgiven as well. The Eucharist mimics the Last Supper that Jesus had with his disciples. When we eat the bread [the wafer] dipped in wine, it represents the body and blood of Jesus, sacrificed for us. Even though we cannot be together today to receive the Holy Eucharist we can still receive forgiveness from Jesus. All that we need to do is ask, admitting what we did was wrong. His forgiveness allows us to live closer to Him and is truly a form of living water!

The second type of living water is God's Word, the Bible. If you have a question about how to live your life or treat others, the answer is in the Bible. The Bible teaches us how to live like Jesus and be closer to God so that we may live fuller and more meaningful lives. The Bible also guides us when life around us gets crazy and unpredictable. The threat of the Coronavirus has caused much chaos in the world, and now, in our own daily lives. This spiritual, living water is most

important in times like this. I urge you to open your Bible today, and every day while we are separated from each other and living in these unprecedented times. Read comforting, familiar passages and find new treasures in unfamiliar verses. I have chosen a few that speak to me:

## **John 10:27-29**

<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.<sup>[a]</sup>

## **Isaiah 43:2**

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

## **Isaiah 26:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace—  
in peace because they trust in you.

<sup>4</sup> Trust in the LORD forever,  
for in the LORD GOD<sup>[a]</sup>  
you have an everlasting rock.

I know you will find your Bible a great source of comfort and life while we are apart. If you find a verse or prayer that comforts you and you would like to share it, please email it to me. We can post them on the church's website for everyone's benefit. Until we see each other again, remember to:

TURN toward Jesus, PRAY for his guidance, LEARN from His word, GO help your neighbor, WORSHIP in a new way outside of church, REST in his perfect peace, and BLESS others as you have been blessed by His love, Amen.