

## ***HUNGER AND THIRST***



**Leader:** Lent is a time to reconnect with the “fundamental hunger” of our being for God  
in whom we find our true happiness.

**Reader 1:**

### **Hound of Heaven (excerpt) by Francis Thompson**

“I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;  
I fled Him, down the arches of the years;  
I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways  
Of my own mind; and in the mist of tears  
I hid from Him, and under running laughter;  
Up vistaed hopes I sped;  
And shot, precipitated,  
Adown Titanic glooms of chasmed fears,  
From those strong Feet that followed, followed after.  
But with unhurrying chase,  
And unperturbed pace,  
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,  
They beat — and a Voice beat  
More instant than the Feet—

“All things betray thee, who betrays Me.”



## Psalm 23 (in choir)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.



He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul.  
He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk  
through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.



Surely goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever.

**Leader:**

“Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee, O Lord. “ (St Augustine)



“If we pause in the mad rush of our living, we will hear the incessant voice of the Mystery we call God promising to fill us with the love we long for.”

**Reader 2      Reading From Scripture      John 7:37-38**

On the last and greatest day of the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice,

"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **Commentary**

On each day of the feast (the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles), the people came with palm branches and marched around the great altar. A priest took a golden pitcher filled with water from the Pool of Siloam, carried it to the temple, and poured it on the altar as an offering to God. This dramatic ceremony was a memorial of the water that flowed from the rock when the Israelites traveled through the wilderness. Perhaps at the very moment that the priest was pouring water on the altar, Jesus' voice rang out: If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

Jesus' timing couldn't have been more perfect or His claim more explicit: He was declaring Himself to be none other than the long-awaited Messiah who would pour out the Holy Spirit, as many in the crowd immediately recognized. From that point on, the hostility of Jesus' enemies mounted until they finally arrested Him in vain hopes of shutting off the "living water."

Silent Time For Reflection and Sharing

## Hymn Selection

Go to Google and type in You Tube mhcaillesrn or

“I Hunger and Thirst For You” by David Kauffmann from his CD entitled “Behold” or

Any other hymn on Psalm 42



### Response (in choir)

My soul thirsts for you, my God. You are my God. Early will I seek you,  
My soul thirsts for you; my flesh longs for you  
In the dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked for you in the sanctuary, To see your power and your glory.  
Give ear to my words, O Lord, Consider my meditation,  
Give heed to the voice of my cry, my King and my God,

For to you I will pray. My voice you shall hear in the morning, O Lord.  
In the morning, I will direct it to you, And I will look up. O Lord.

When you said, “Seek my face,” My heart said to you, “Your face, Lord, I will seek.”

As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for you, O God, the living God.  
When shall I come and appear before God?”

But as for me I will come into your house in the multitude of your mercy;  
In fear of you I will worship in your holy temple. The Lord’s is in his holy temple.  
The Lord’s throne is in heaven; he sits on his holy throne.

One thing I have desired of the Lord, that I will seek, That I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

Glory to the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## Intercessions

Leader: For whom and for what should we pray today.

## Our Father



## Closing Prayer

We come before your presence, Lord, full of awe at your ways.  
We ask you to fill us with the Holy Spirit as we seek your will each day.

Wash over our humble hearts and remove all the barriers that block the flow of your love.  
Transform us to your image, for you have shown how much you love us.

Fill us today with the Living Water that satisfies the hungry soul and  
Bring us into newness of life and make eternity with you our final destiny.

We ask our prayer in the name of the One who quenches all our thirst, Jesus Christ our Lord and  
Brother. Amen.



