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One Sunday morning in a small church similar to our church, the pastor called on one of the deacons to lead the congregation in the opening prayer.

The deacon stood up, bowed his head, and said, “Dear Lord, I hate raw eggs.”

The pastor, whose head was bowed, looked up and wondered where this was going.

The deacon continued, “And Lord, I hate lumps of butter.”

Now the pastor was totally perplexed and thought his deacon had lost it. The deacon continued, “And Lord, I'm not too crazy about plain flour and sugar and baking soda either.

But I do like chocolate Lord.

And I know, Lord, that after you mix them all together and bake them in a hot oven, I just love fresh and tasty chocolate chip cookies!”

And the deacon continued: “Lord, help us to realize that when life gets hard, when things come up that we don’t like, whenever we don’t understand what you’re doing; it's then, that we need to wait and see what you are making!

After you get through mixing and baking, it’ll probably be something even better than chocolate chip cookies. Amen.”

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I like that story because there’s a simple theology of living that speaks about the simple truths of life.

And that is, when we place our trust in the Lord our God and let him take care of our cares and concerns. It's then that the Lord God, through His son Jesus Christ gives us an abiding peace that passes all understanding.

As St. Paul says in our Second Reading, "…we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace to which we stand, and we boast in hope for the glory of God."

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ!

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And in a very real way, the woman at the well in the Gospel reading today came face to face with this same theological understanding about life, didn’t she?

She was faced with many problems and many concerns and life was hard and difficult for her. We learn about that in our reading today.

She faced hardships and she had concerns and in a very real sense, she was searching for inner peace and God’s love, forgiveness, and a recipe for eternal happiness, as well as eternal life.

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And low and behold, she finds it. She found it in a stranger who changed her life forever with four little words. "Give me a drink."

When Jesus said those four words, "Give me a drink," she could have replied, no, she could have ran away, she could have ignored Jesus.

But somehow she trusted in the Lord, and she knew that everything would be okay.

And as she continued to talk with this stranger, she came face to face with the Messiah, the one called the Christ. The one she had been searching for her in her life.

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And she believed and suddenly all of the ingredients of her life that heretofore made no sense, suddenly came together and made complete sense.

And she was in so much awe that she left her water jug at the well and went and told all her neighbors and everyone and anyone that would listen to her. And she came to believe.

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What a remarkable story. How this woman's life was changed that morning when she went to the well. She had no idea that her life was about to be transformed when she encountered Jesus face to face.

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She had no idea that simply by listening and accepting and trusting in what Jesus had to say that morning, that she would find what she had been searching for all her life. And in an instant, she was healed and forgiven. She was mended and made whole. And she was at peace.

And she believed in the saving power of Jesus Christ.

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It was like all the ingredients of her life had suddenly been mixed perfectly and had been baked to perfection. And the final product was much better than even chocolate chip cookies, it was God's love.

This is the message that we take with us today this third Sunday of Lent.

To encounter Jesus face to face in the well of our own lives. To open up to him. To listen to him. To trust in the Lord and believe in his saving power.

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We need that today, don't we? There is so much going on in today's world. We live in a world where unprecedented things are taking place and we may not understand or have answers.

But we have a savior who cares so much for us that he helps us through the hardships and difficult times, and he heals our wounds and helps us with our anxieties and our worries and our heartaches and headaches. And he cleanses our sins. And he replaces them with his everlasting and undeniable and indescribable, incredible, and undeniable forgiveness and love

Let us pray as the deacon prayed at the beginning of the homily:

Lord help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what you are doing, that we need to wait and see what you are making.

After you get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than chocolate chip cookies. Amen.

May God bless you and may his angels be with you. Amen.