

The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

John 4:5-42

Then cometh He to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with His journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (For His disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) Then saith the woman of Samaria unto Him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast Thou that living water? Art Thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. The woman saith unto Him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when He is come, He will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am He. And upon this came His disciples, and marvelled that He talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her? The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? Then they went out of the city, and came unto Him. In the mean while His disciples prayed Him, saying, Master, eat. But He said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought Him ought to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours. And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. So when the Samaritans were come unto Him, they besought Him that He would tarry with them: and He abode there two days. And many more believed because of his own word; And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world. (KJV)

Translation of the Relics of St. Nicholas

Luke 6:17-23

And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases; And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh. Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets (KJV).

Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

St. John's Gospel describes the Lord Jesus Christ as the source of living water. Those who drink from Jesus will never thirst. Jesus is the inexhaustible Source leading to everlasting life.

God's Holy Church is continuing to celebrate Jesus Christ's Resurrection. Jesus' triumph of Life over death merits constant attention. Believers drinking from the Resurrected Christ have Christ living in them.

Throughout the day and throughout earthly life, believers have the opportunity to drink from Jesus Christ. The Gospel is clear that Jesus Christ offers nourishment for life throughout life.

Once having tasted of the living water from Christ, believers know and value the difference. Repentance is always possible for believers who have been nourished by Christ and have fallen away.

Remaining united with Christ keeps the believer on the narrow path to God's Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life. Perils to the soul and evil exist to derail believers on the journey to the Heavenly Kingdom

Great vigilance is necessary every moment of life to guard the soul. The closer a person gets to complete unity with Christ, the greater the peril to the soul as evil seeks to triumph.

Jesus Christ proved He is greater than evil and fortifies the faithful remaining united with Him. Savor the joy of the Resurrected Christ. Savor the opportunities to be united with Christ at every moment of life.

Depend not on personal strength or personal will power. Strength is derived from God. When God is recognized as the source of strength and believers act in concert with God, evil temptations and perils are defeated.

This is a time of great joy in God's Holy Church. Rejoice in the Church's celebration of the Resurrection. Rejoice in the life and love of Jesus Christ. Cherish the hope the Resurrection holds for each moment of life.

Be constantly grateful to God's Holy Church for offering Christ's living water. Be thankful for the Holy Apostles, Saints and Martyrs through the centuries. Have gratitude for the founders and benefactors of this holy parish church.

Reject manifestations of evil in daily life and follow the Light of the Living Christ. Through the prayers and intercession of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker whose translation of relics is being celebrated today, be confident in the Lord.

Christ's Resurrection is the sufficient foundation for life and life eternal. Christ's Resurrection is the world view to put every moment of life in perspective. Christ's Resurrection is the source of everlasting knowledge and everlasting life.

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman. Translation of the Relics of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. Holy Prophet Isaiah. May 9/22, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic