

**SPIRITUALITY**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

cf. John 4:42, 15

Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world;  
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

**Gospel** John 4:5-42; L28A

Jesus came to a town of  
Samaria called Sychar,  
near the plot of land that  
Jacob had given to  
his son Joseph.  
Jacob's well was there.  
Jesus, tired from his  
journey, sat down there  
at the well.  
It was about noon.

A woman of Samaria came  
to draw water.

Jesus said to her,  
"Give me a drink."

His disciples had gone into the town  
to buy food.

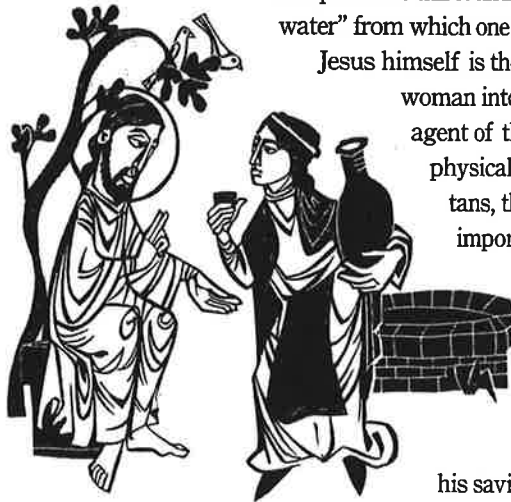
The Samaritan woman said to him,  
"How can you, a Jew, ask me, a  
Samaritan woman, for a drink?"

—For Jews use nothing in common with  
Samaritans.—

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."

The woman said to him,  
"Sir, you do not even have a bucket  
and the cistern is deep;  
where then can you get this living  
water?"

Are you greater than our father Jacob,  
who gave us this cistern and drank  
from it himself  
with his children and his flocks?"



**Reflecting on the Gospel**

A "bucket list" is a list of items someone wants to do or accomplish before she or he dies. Here's a thought: The Samaritan woman came to the well to "draw water," so she no doubt had a bucket. Maybe even a bucket list? Her list might have included an easier way to get water, for when Jesus offers to give her "living water" she desires that water so she would not "have to keep coming here to draw water." Here is an interesting twist: The Samaritan woman is fixated on water that quenches thirst and on making her present life easier. Jesus is offering "living water" from which one never thirsts again, water that leads to "eternal life."

Jesus himself is the well of "living water" who draws the Samaritan woman into deeper "worship in Spirit and truth." He is the active agent of the Father who seeks "people to worship him." The physical "where" of worship (Mount Gerizim for the Samaritans, the Temple Mount in Jerusalem for Jews) is far less important than that "true worshippers" do so in "Spirit and truth." The Spirit stirs the well of "living water" and reveals Jesus as truly "the one called the Christ." As the well of "living water," Jesus himself is the "where" of worship who leads us to the Father through the Spirit.

As a well of "living water," Jesus is ever active in his saving mission. He draws the disciples into his mission of reaping the harvest that is already sown and ripe. Jesus is the one who sows the seed of salvation among us. He patiently waits for the seed to be watered, take root, and ripen. The seed he sows is his word and Life. To reap what he sows, we must listen to him and come to believe in him, nurture his word in our hearts, and share that word with others. Our mission is to be Gospel people who make known to others that Jesus is the well of "living water" that overflows into a living stream that carries us to "eternal life."

As a well of "living water," Jesus draws the townspeople into deeper belief in him as "the Christ" who "is truly the savior of the world." Believing is a matter of growing in our relationship with Jesus who is our life and salvation. His word draws us to himself and a lifelong commitment to worship in "Spirit and truth," to carry forth his saving mission, and to believe that his word is ever fruitful. Worship, mission, and believing are *the* way to "eternal life." We need only to drink of Jesus, the well of "living water."

**Living the Paschal Mystery**

One way to deepen our believing and come to know Jesus better is by spending more time with him as a friend. Lent is an opportune time to become more attentive to Jesus' Presence—especially in prayer—and encounter him as One who loves us, teaches us, and gives us "living water" that carries us to "eternal life." Another way to deepen our believing is to enumerate the blessings God has already given us and remember that these truly are gifts from God. Yet another way to deepen our faith and come to know Jesus better is to increase our self-understanding as Body of Christ and make concrete efforts to act like Christ's Body. Something so simple as saying thank you or smiling at another who looks sad or depressed are simple acts, but they remind us of who we are. Christ for others. These kinds of everyday acts remind us that, like the Samaritan woman, we proclaim Jesus' Presence by the truth of our own lives. We carry forth Jesus' saving mission by being his Presence for others. We worship.

*Continued in Appendix A, p. 269,  
or John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42 in Appendix A,  
p. 270.*

**Gospel (cont.)**

Matt 4:1-11; L22A

Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain,  
and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their  
magnificence,  
and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you,  
if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."  
At this, Jesus said to him,  
"Get away, Satan!

It is written:

*The Lord, your God, shall you worship  
and him alone shall you serve."*

Then the devil left him and, behold,  
angels came and ministered to him.

**Third Sunday of Lent, March 19, 2017**

**Gospel (cont.)**

John 4:5-42; L28A

Jesus answered and said to her,  
"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again;  
but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst;  
the water I shall give will become in him  
a spring of water welling up to eternal life."  
The woman said to him,  
"Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty  
or have to keep coming here to draw water."  
Jesus said to her,  
"Go call your husband and come back."  
The woman answered and said to him,  
"I do not have a husband."  
Jesus answered her,  
"You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.'  
For you have had five husbands,  
and the one you have now is not your husband.  
What you have said is true."  
The woman said to him,  
"Sir, I can see that you are a prophet.  
Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain;  
but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem."  
Jesus said to her,  
"Believe me, woman, the hour is coming  
when you will worship the Father  
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.  
You people worship what you do not understand;  
we worship what we understand,  
because salvation is from the Jews.  
But the hour is coming, and is now here,  
when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth;  
and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him.  
God is Spirit, and those who worship him  
must worship in Spirit and truth."  
The woman said to him,  
"I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ;  
when he comes, he will tell us everything."  
Jesus said to her,  
"I am he, the one speaking with you."

At that moment his disciples returned,  
and were amazed that he was talking with a woman,  
but still no one said, "What are you looking for?"  
or "Why are you talking with her?"  
The woman left her water jar  
and went into the town and said to the people,  
"Come see a man who told me everything I have done.  
Could he possibly be the Christ?"  
They went out of the town and came to him.  
Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat."  
But he said to them,  
"I have food to eat of which you do not know."  
So the disciples said to one another,  
"Could someone have brought him something to eat?"  
Jesus said to them,  
"My food is to do the will of the one who sent me  
and to finish his work.  
Do you not say, 'In four months the harvest will be here?'  
I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest.  
The reaper is already receiving payment  
and gathering crops for eternal life,  
so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together.  
For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and another reaps.'  
I sent you to reap what you have not worked for;  
others have done the work,  
and you are sharing the fruits of their work."  
Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him  
because of the word of the woman who testified,  
"He told me everything I have done."  
When the Samaritans came to him,  
they invited him to stay with them;  
and he stayed there two days.  
Many more began to believe in him because of his word,  
and they said to the woman,  
"We no longer believe because of your word;  
for we have heard for ourselves,  
and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."