Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

One of the most ancient cities of the Promised Land was Shechem, also called Sikima, located at the foot of Mount Gerizim. There the Israelites had heard the blessings in the days of Moses and Joshua. Near to this town, Jacob, who had come from Mesopotamia in the nineteenth century before Christ, bought a piece of land where there was a well. This well, preserved even until the time of Christ, was known as Jacob’s Well. Later, before he died in Egypt, he left that piece of land as a special inheritance to his son Joseph (Gen. 49:22). This town, before it was taken into possession by Samaria, was also the leading city of the kingdom of the ten tribes. In the time of the Romans it was called Neapolis, and at present Nablus. It was the first city in Canaan visited by the Patriarch Abraham. Here also, Joshua addressed the tribes of Israel for the last time. Almost three hundred years later, all Israel assembled there to make Rehoboam king.

When our Lord Jesus Christ, then, came at midday to this city, which is also called Sychar (John 4:5), He was wearied from the journey and the heat. He sat down at this well. After a little while the Samaritan woman mentioned in today’s Gospel passage came to draw water. As she conversed at some length with the Lord and heard from Him secret things concerning herself, she believed in Him; through her many other Samaritans also believed.

Concerning the Samaritans we know the following: In the year 721 before Christ, Shalmaneser, King of the Assyrians, took the ten tribes of the kingdom of Israel into captivity, and relocated all these people to Babylon and the land of the Medes. From there he gathered various nations and sent them to Samaria. These nations had been idolaters from before. Although they were later instructed in the Jewish faith and believed in the one God, they worshipped the idols also. Furthermore, they accepted only the Pentateuch of Moses, and rejected the other books of Holy Scripture. Nonetheless, they thought themselves to be descendants of Abraham and Jacob. Therefore, the pious Jews named these Judaizing and idolatrous peoples Samaritans, since they lived in Samaria, the former leading city of the Israelites, as well as in the other towns thereabout. The Jews rejected them as heathen and foreigners, and had no communion with them at all, as the Samaritan woman observed, “the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans” (John 4:9). Therefore, the name Samaritan is used derisively many times in the Gospel narrations.

After the Ascension of the Lord, and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the woman of Samaria was baptized by the holy Apostles and became a great preacher and Martyr of Christ; she was called Photine, and her feast is kept on February 26.

A Note to Visitors and Guests: Welcome! We are glad you have joined us today for worship! If this is your first visit to All Saints, please take a moment to fill out a visitor’s card at the greeter’s stand before you leave. The greeter also has Liturgy Books for use during the service, if you desire one. We hope you will join us for brunch following this morning’s service.
**Kontakion of Pascha (Tone 8):**
Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal. Thou didst destroy the pow'r of death. In victory didst Thou arise O Christ God, proclaiming rejoice to the myrrhbearing women, granting peace to thine apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

**Troparion of All Saints (Tone 4):**
Adorned in the blood of Thy martyrs, throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

**Megalynarion for Pascha:**
The angel cried to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, rejoice O pure Virgin. Again, I say rejoice: Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb. With Himself He has raised all the dead; rejoice, rejoice O ye people. Shine! Shine! Shine, O new Jerusalem. The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now, exult, and be glad O Zion. Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the resurrection, the resurrection of your Son.

**Prokeimenon Psalm:**
How great are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

**Epistle Reading:** Acts 11:19-30

**Gospel Reading:** John 4:5-42

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**News and Announcements**

**Fasting during the Paschal season:** In accordance with the custom of the Patriarchate of Antioch, we do NOT fast on Wednesdays and Fridays during the forty-day season of Pascha. We resume normal fasting practices the day after Ascension. We do still observe the normal pre-communion fast from food and drink during this time.

**Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!**
Christos anesti! Alithos anesti!
Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!
Al-Massih kam! Hakkan kam!
Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!
Christus Surrexit! Surrexit vere!
Cristo ha resucitado! Verdaderamente, ha resucitado!
Christus ist auferstanden! Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!
Cristo è risorto! È veramente risorto!
Le Christ est ressuscité! Vraiment Il est ressuscité!
Chrystus zmartwychwsta! Prawdziwie zmartwychwsta!
Krishti u ngjall! Vërtet u ngjall!
Christos harjav i merelotz! Orhni ale harutjun Christosi!