

ST. ELIAS THE PROPHET CHURCH BULLETIN

May 13, 2012

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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 Gerazim. There the Israelites had heard the blessings in the days of Moses and Jesus of Navi. 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, Jesus addressed the tribes of time. Almost three all Israel assembled there (Rehoboam) king. When Christ, then, came at which is also called He was wearied from the heat, and He sat down at little while the Samaritan in today's Gospel passage water. As she conversed the Lord and heard from concerning herself, she



of Navi (Joshua) Israel for the last hundred years later, to make Roboam our Lord Jesus midday to this city, Sychar (John 4:5), journey and the this well. After a woman mentioned came to draw at some length with Him secret things believed in Him;

through her many other Samaritans also believed. Concerning the Samaritans we know the following: In the year 721 before Christ, Salmanasar (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.

GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READINGS

EPISTLE READING

Acts of the Apostles 11:19-30

IN THOSE DAYS, those apostles who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea, and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Gospel Reading

John 4:5-42 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that 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 have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who

gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks 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 (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the city and were coming to him.

Meanwhile the disciples besought him, saying "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, "Has anyone brought him food?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony. "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard ourselves, and we know that this is indeed Christ the Savior of the world.

Resurrectional Apolytikion Fourth Tone

The women disciples of the Lord heard from the angel, the joyful news of the Resurrection and the repeal of the sentence imposed upon our forefathers. With pride they said to the Apostles, "Death is vanquished, Christ our God is risen bestowing upon the world His great mercy."

Apolytikion for 4th Wednesday after Pascha - Mid-Pentecost

Mid-way in the feast, refresh my thirsty soul with the flowing waters of piety. For You cried out to all, O Savior, "Let him who thirsts come to me and drink." You, O Christ our God, are the Fountain of Life, glory to You.

Church Apolytikion

Incarnate Angel and summit of the Prophets, second forerunner of the coming of Christ glorious Elijah sent down grace from on high to the Prophet Elisha. He heals diseases and cleanses the leprous. He pours healings on all who honour him.

Kontakion

Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades' power, and You rose the victor, Christ God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, "Hail!" and granting peace to Your disciples, You who raise up the fallen.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Greek Festival 2012

We need volunteers for this year's Greek Festival 2012. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Kerry Tramountanas. We are also selling our Festival raffle tickets after church. Please see Kerry Tramountanas after church.

SERVICES AND INFORMATION

This Week's Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, 13 May Samaritan Women/ MOTHER'S DAY

Prosforo/ coffee hour Mac Ennis

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 19 May Great Vespers 5:00pm

Sunday, 20 May Blind Men

prosforo/ coffee hour Susan and Paul Proestos

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Monday, 21 May St. Constantine and Helen **prosforo Fr. Dimitri**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Thursday, 24 May Ascension **prosforo Fr. Dimitri**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 26 May Great Vespers 5:00pm

Sunday, 27 May Holy Father's 1st Council

prosforo Fr. Dimitri coffee hour Mary Santikos

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 2 June Saturday of the Souls **Prosforo Fr. Dimitri**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Sunday, 3 June Pentecost

prosforo Fr. Dimitri coffee hour Nyphe Kefal

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 9 June No Great Vespers

Sunday, 10 June All Saint's Day

prosforo Fr. Dimitri coffee hour Helen Skinas

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Friday, 15 June Greek Festival

11:00am - 9:00pm

Saturday, 16 June Greek Festival

11:00am - 9:00pm

No Great Vespers

Sunday, 17 June FATHER'S DAY

prosforo Fr. Dimitri coffee hour Frederika Vaupen

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 23 June Great Vespers 5:00pm

Sunday, 24 June St. John the Prodromos

prosforo Fr. Dimitri Coffee hour Anastasia Stevens

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Friday, 29 June SS. Peter and Paul **prosforo Fr. Dimitri**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 30 June

No Great Vespers

Sunday, 1 July

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am