

**SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021**  
**5th Sunday of Pascha**  
**Samaritan Woman**

The Holy Martyr Photina (Svetlana) the Samaritan Woman, her sons Victor (named Photinus) and Joses; and her sisters Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskeva, Kyriake; Nero's daughter Domnina; and the Martyr Sebastian: The holy Martyr Photina was the Samaritan Woman, with whom the Savior conversed at Jacob's Well (John. 4:5-42).

During the time of the emperor Nero (54-68), who displayed excessive cruelty against Christians, St Photina lived in Carthage with her younger son Joses and fearlessly preached the Gospel there. Her eldest son Victor fought bravely in the Roman army against barbarians, and was appointed military commander in the city of Attalia (Asia Minor). Later, Nero called him to Italy to arrest and punish Christians.

Sebastian, an official in Italy, said to St Victor, "I know that you, your mother and your brother, are followers of Christ. As a friend I advise you to submit to the will of the emperor. If you inform on any Christians, you will receive their wealth. I shall write to your mother and brother, asking them not to preach Christ in public. Let them practice their faith in secret."

St Victor replied, "I want to be a preacher of Christianity like my mother and brother." Sebastian said, "O Victor, we all know what woes await you, your mother and brother." Then Sebastian suddenly felt a sharp pain in his eyes. He was dumbfounded, and his face was somber.

For three days he lay there blind, without uttering a word. On the fourth day he declared, "The God of the Christians is the only true God." St Victor asked why Sebastian had suddenly changed his mind. Sebastian replied, "Because Christ is calling me." Soon he was baptized, and immediately regained his sight. St Sebastian's servants, after witnessing the miracle, were also baptized.

Reports of this reached Nero, and he commanded that the Christians be brought to him at Rome. Then the Lord Himself appeared to the confessors and said, "Fear not, for I am with you. Nero, and all who serve him, will be vanquished." The Lord said to St Victor, "From this day forward, your name will be Photinus, because through you, many will be enlightened and will believe in Me." The Lord then told the Christians to strengthen and encourage St Sebastian to persevere until the end. All these things, and even future events, were revealed

to St Photina. She left Carthage in the company of several Christians and joined the confessors in Rome.

At Rome the emperor ordered the saints to be brought before him and he asked them whether they truly believed in Christ. All the confessors refused to renounce the Savior. Then the emperor gave orders to smash the martyrs' finger joints. During the torments, the confessors felt no pain, and their hands remained unharmed.

Nero ordered that Sts Sebastian, Photinus and Joses be blinded and locked up in prison, and St Photina and her five sisters Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskeva and Kyriake were sent to the imperial court under the supervision of Nero's daughter Domnina. St Photina converted both Domnina and all her servants to Christ. She also converted a sorcerer, who had brought her poisoned food to kill her.

Three years passed, and Nero sent to the prison for one of his servants, who had been locked up. The messengers reported to him that Sts Sebastian, Photinus and Joses, who had been blinded, had completely recovered, and that people were visiting them to hear their preaching, and indeed the whole prison had been transformed into a bright and fragrant place where God was glorified.

Nero then gave orders to crucify the saints, and to beat their naked bodies with straps. On the fourth day the emperor sent servants to see whether the martyrs were still alive. But, approaching the place of the tortures, the servants fell blind. An angel of the Lord freed the martyrs from their crosses and healed them. The saints took pity on the blinded servants, and restored their sight by their prayers to the Lord. Those who were healed came to believe in Christ and were soon baptized.

In an impotent rage Nero gave orders to flay the skin from St Photina and to throw the martyr down a well. Sebastian, Photinus and Joses had their legs cut off, and they were thrown to dogs, and then had their skin flayed off. The sisters of St Photina also suffered terrible torments. St Photina was removed from the well and locked up in prison for twenty days.

After this Nero had her brought to him and asked if she would now relent and offer sacrifice to the idols. St Photina spit in the face of the emperor, and laughing at him, said, "O most impious of the blind, you profligate and stupid man! Do you think me so deluded that I would consent to renounce my Lord Christ and instead offer sacrifice to idols as blind as you?"

Hearing such words, Nero gave orders to again throw the martyr down the well, where she surrendered her soul to God (ca. 66).

## GREAT VESPERS

***LORD I CALL:*** *Four stikhera for the Resurrection in tone 4, then three for the Pentecostarion, then three for the Samaritan Woman*

***Resurrection, tone 4:***

We glorify Your Resurrection on the third day, O Christ God,  
by always honoring Your life-creating Cross;  
by it, You have renewed the corrupted nature of man,  
O almighty One.

By it, You have renewed our entrance to heaven,//  
for You are good and the Lover of man.

You loosed the Tree's verdict of disobedience, O Savior,  
by being voluntarily nailed to the tree of the Cross.

By descending to hell, O almighty God,  
You broke the bonds of death.

Therefore, we adore Your Resurrection from the dead, singing in joy://  
“Glory to You, O all powerful Lord!”

You smashed the gates of hell, O Lord,  
and by Your death You demolished the kingdom of death.

You delivered the race of men from corruption,//  
granting the world life, incorruption and great mercy.

Come, O people,

let us sing of the Savior's Resurrection on the third day!

By it, we have been freed from the unbreakable bonds of hell.

By it, we have received life and incorruption.

Save us by Your Resurrection!//

O Life-creating and almighty Savior, glory to You!

***Pentecostarion, tone 4:***

The middle of the days has come,  
beginning with the Savior's Resurrection,  
and sealed by the holy Pentecost.

The first and the last glisten with splendor.

We rejoice in the union of both feasts,  
as we draw near to the Lord's Ascension://  
the sign of our coming glorification.

Be glad, O Zion!  
Hear the announcement of Christ's Resurrection!  
Let her faithful sons rejoice!  
The filth of the daughter of Zion is washed away.  
Jerusalem, stained with the blood of God's murder, is cleansed by the Spirit.//  
With songs of joy she celebrates the middle of the feast.

As it is written,  
the abundant outpouring of divine gifts is drawing near.  
The chosen day of the Spirit is halfway come.  
The true promise of Christ to the Disciples  
after His death, burial, and Resurrection,//  
heralds the coming of the Comforter.

***Samaritan Woman, tone 1:***

The Fountain of miracles came to the well at noon  
to ensnare the daughter of Eve.  
Once, Eve had been driven out of Paradise by the serpent's guile;  
now a woman of Samaria came to draw water.  
The Savior saw her and said to her:  
"Give Me water to drink,  
and I will fill you with the waters of eternal life!"  
She ran to the town and proclaimed to the crowd:  
"Come and see Christ the Lord!//  
He is the Savior of our souls!"

***Samaritan Woman, tone 2:***

The Lord of compassion came to the well  
and conversed with a woman of Samaria.  
She said: "Give me Your water that I may never thirst again!  
I will drink from the fountain of joy and redemption."//  
O Life-giving Lord, glory to You!

The Word of the Father,  
the co-eternal Son without beginning,  
came and sat by the well, though He is the Fountain of healing.  
A Samaritan woman came to draw water;  
when the Savior saw her, He said to her:  
"Give Me water to drink!  
Go, call your husband!"  
She thought she was speaking not to God, but to a man.

Trying to evade Him, she said: “I have no husband.”  
But the Teacher replied: “You speak the truth,  
for you have had five husbands,  
and the one living with you now is not your husband.”  
She was amazed by His words and ran back to the town.//  
She said to the crowd: “Come and see Christ, Who grants the world great mercy!”

***Glory ... Samaritan Woman, tone 6:***

Jesus met the Samaritan woman by Jacob's well.  
He wraps the earth in clouds,  
yet He asks for water from her.  
Oh, the wonder!  
He Who rides on the cherubim speaks with an adulterous woman.  
He Who suspended the earth on the waters asks for a drink.  
He Who causes the lakes and springs to overflow is weary with thirst.  
Truly He desires to set the woman free from the Enemy's snares,  
drowning her sins in the waters of life,//  
for He alone is the compassionate Lover of man.

***now and ever ... Theotokion-dogmatikon in tone 4:***

The Prophet David was a father of the Lord  
through you, O Virgin.  
He foretold in songs the One Who worked wonder in you:  
“At Your right hand stood the Queen,”  
Your Mother, the mediatrix of life,  
since God was freely born of her without a father.  
He wanted to renew His fallen image, made corrupt in passion,  
so He took the lost sheep upon His shoulder  
and brought it to His Father,  
joining it to the heavenly pow'rs.//  
Christ, Who has great and rich mercy, has saved the world, O Theotokos.

**APOSTICHA:**

***Resurrection, tone 4:***

By ascending the Cross, O Lord,  
You have annulled our ancestral curse.  
By descending to hell, You have freed the eternal prisoners,  
granting incorruption to the human race.//  
Therefore in songs we glorify Your life-creating and saving Resurrection.

***Paschal stikhera:***

*V. Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; [let those who hate Him flee from before His face!]*

Today, a sacred Pascha is revealed to us:  
a new and holy Pascha,  
a mystical Pascha,  
a Pascha worthy of veneration,  
a Pascha which is Christ the Redeemer,  
a blameless Pascha,  
a great Pascha,  
a Pascha of the faithful,  
a Pascha which has opened for us the gates of Paradise,  
a Pascha which sanctifies all the faithful.

*V. As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; [as wax melts before the fire!]*

Come from that scene, O women bearers of glad tidings,  
and say to Zion:  
“Receive from us the glad tidings of joy,  
of Christ’s Resurrection!  
Exult and be glad,  
and rejoice, O Jerusalem,  
seeing Christ the King, Who comes forth from the tomb  
like a bridegroom in procession!”

*V. So the sinners will perish before the face of God; but let the righteous be glad!*

The myrrh-bearing women,  
at the break of dawn,  
drew near to the tomb of the Life-giver.  
There they found an angel  
sitting upon the stone.  
He greeted them with these words:  
“Why do you seek the Living among the dead?  
Why do you mourn the Incorrupt amid corruption?  
Go, proclaim the glad tidings to His disciples!”

*V. This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

Pascha of beauty,  
the Pascha of the Lord,  
A Pascha worthy of all honor has dawned for us.

O Pascha!

Let us embrace each other joyously!

Pascha, ransom from affliction!

For today, as from a bridal chamber,

Christ has shone forth from the tomb,

and filled the women with joy saying:

“Proclaim the glad tidings to the Apostles!”

***Glory ... Samaritan Woman in tone 8:***

In Your inexpressible dispensation,

You appeared on earth, O Christ our God.

When the woman of Samaria heard Your words, O Lover of man,

she left her jar at the well and ran to the town.

She said: “Come and see Him Who knew every secret hidden in my heart!

Could He be the long-awaited Messiah,//

Who will grant us great mercy?”

***now & ever... Paschal stikheron:***

This is the day of resurrection!

Let us be illuminated by the feast!

Let us embrace each other!

Let us call Brothers even those that hate us,

and forgive all by the resurrection,

and so let us cry:

“Christ is risen from the dead,

trampling down death by death,

and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!” (*once*)

**TROPARIA:**

***Resurrection, tone 4:***

When the women disciples of the Lord

learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection,

they cast away the ancestral curse

and elatedly told the apostles:

“Death is overthrown!

Christ God is risen,//

granting the world great mercy!”

***Midfeast, tone 8:***

In the middle of the feast, O Savior,

fill my thirsting soul with the waters of piety, as You cried to all:

“If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink!”//  
O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to You!

## DIVINE LITURGY

### **TROPARIA:**

#### ***Resurrection, tone 4:***

When the women disciples of the Lord  
learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection,  
they cast away the ancestral curse  
and elatedly told the apostles:  
“Death is overthrown!  
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fill my thirsting soul with the waters of piety, as You cried to all:  
“If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink!”//  
O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to You!

### **KONTAKIA:**

#### ***Pentecostarion, tone 8:***

The Samaritan Woman came to the well in faith;  
she saw You, the Water of wisdom and drank abundantly.//  
She inherited the Kingdom on high, and is ever glorified!

#### ***Midfeast, tone 4:***

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all,  
cried to all in the midst of the feast of the Law:  
“Come and draw the water of immortality!”  
We fall before You and faithfully cry://  
“Grant us Your mercies, for You are the Fountain of our life!”

**Prokeimenon, tone 3:** Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

v. Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

**Epistle: (26) Acts 11:19-26, 29-30** Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged

them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

*Alleluia in the fourth tone:* Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!

v. For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity.

**Gospel: (12) John 4:5-42** So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says 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 then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting 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 and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such 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 Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did.

Could this be the Christ? Then they went out of the city and came to Him. In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.” And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did.” So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”

**Communion Hymn:** Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality!  
Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!