



**MARCH 12, 2023**

**EXPLORE THE SUNDAY GOSPEL**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

Ex 17:3-7

Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

**The Samaritan Woman**

[Jn 4:5-42](#) or [4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42](#) (Long form posted here)

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?”

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.”

## MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY

### St. Patrick of Ireland (Feast Day March 17)

389 – 461

St. Patrick is one of Ireland's best-known saints. Interestingly, Patrick was actually born in Britain (not Ireland). When he was a boy, he was captured as a slave and sent to Ireland to tend sheep. Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty. He escaped after having a dream from God, who told him to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain, where he was reunited with his family. Patrick became a priest and later a bishop and was sent to Ireland to bring the Good News of Jesus to this land. There, he converted many people -eventually thousands - and began building churches across the country. He often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity. Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in his memoir, *The Confession*. After years of living in poverty, traveling, and enduring much suffering, he died on March 17, 461.

## TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- What does the woman in the Gospel story do after encountering Jesus? What effect does this have on the town in which she lives?
- The woman testifies to what Jesus does for her. What makes the woman's message so effective?
- Is there someone you know who needs to hear about Jesus? In what way can you share your story with him or her?
- St. Patrick used shamrocks to teach people about the Holy Trinity. What are some things in nature that remind you of God?

## FAMILY FUN

### Explore your Town

Here are some ideas if you live near a large city:

- Go to Mass at an old downtown church.
- Visit a religious shrine or important landmark. Be sure to stop in at the gift shop!
- Have lunch at a fun downtown restaurant.

Here are some ideas if you live in a rural area:

- Go to Mass in a neighboring town
- At Mass, have a conversation with someone from that town and ask if there's anything special to visit in the area.

- Have lunch at a local restaurant.

## RECIPE OF THE WEEK

### Homemade Irish Soda Bread

*St. Patrick's Day (March 17<sup>th</sup>) is just around the corner. Make some Irish Soda Bread to share with friends and family.*

4 cups flour

½ cup sugar

1 tsp baking soda

1 tsp baking powder

1 tsp salt

8 Tbsp butter, softened

1½ cups raisins

2 eggs

1½ cups buttermilk

2 tsp caraway seeds (optional)

Sift dry ingredients into a medium size bowl. Work in butter with fingers. Add raisins (and caraway seeds if desired). In a separate bowl, combine eggs and buttermilk. Make a well in center of flour mixture. Add eggs and buttermilk. Mix together with a wooden spoon until dough becomes stiff. Turn out onto a floured board. With floured hands, knead lightly and swiftly for a few seconds. Place smooth side up in a lightly floured 8-inch round cake pan. With a floured knife, cut a deep cross on top. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour until golden brown. Cool on a wire rack.

## FAMILY PRAYER

### St. Patrick's Breastplate

*This is a famous prayer attributed to St. Patrick.*

Christ with me,

Christ before me,

Christ behind me,

Christ in me,

Christ beneath me,

Christ above me,

Christ on my right,

Christ on my left,

Christ when I lie down,

Christ when I sit down,

Christ when I arise,

Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,

Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,

Christ in every eye that sees me,

Christ in every ear that hears me.

## **LITURGY LINK**

Find the eighth station of the cross in your church. What is happening in this station?

## **FAMILY CHALLENGE**

The Samaritan woman acknowledged her sins before Jesus in today's Gospel story. Go to confession as a family this week. (Remember the Act of Contrition you memorized a few weeks ago!)

## **FUN FACTS**

Samaritans were descendants of Jews from the northern part of Israel, who had intermarried with Gentiles and did not worship in Jerusalem. At the time of Jesus, Samaritans and Jews did not like each other or interact with each other. Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman teaches us that the gift of eternal life is given to everyone!

*<https://www.52sundays.com/sundays/march-12-2023>*