

PSALM 114

Alleluia

1. **Lord I am content, for Thou hast listened to the voice of my supplication.**
2. Since he has inclined His ear to me, I will appeal to Him in all my days.
3. **I was encompassed by the pains of death; the dangers of hell discovered me; affliction and sorrow found me.**
4. **Then I called on the Name of the Lord: "O Lord, rescue my soul."**
5. **Merciful and righteous is the Lord; indeed, our God is compassionate.**
6. The Lord keeps safe the vulnerable. I was degraded, and He delivered me.
 7. Return, my soul to your rest; for the Lord has favored you.
 8. For He has delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
9. **I delight in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.**

This psalm is the sixth of Kathisma XLI.

Verses 1,3-4 and 9 constitute the responses during the First Antiphon in the Liturgy of Palm Sunday.

Verses 1, 3-4 and 5 are the responses during the Second Antiphon in the Liturgy of Theophany.

This short and uncomplicated Psalm of Praise is considered in our faith to refer to the death and raising of Lazarus and its use on Palm Sunday is in reference to this event on the previous day.

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SAINT SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Ὁ Ναός τῆς Ἁγίας Σοφίας τοῦ Θεοῦ

Washington, D.C.

May 2, 2010

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

The Tone for this day is the Fourth

The Morning Gospel of the Orthros is No. 7

John 20:1-10

On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

**PROKEIMENON: O Lord, how magnificent are your works.
You have made all things in wisdom. Bless the Lord, O my soul** Psalm 103:24 + 1

The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:7-16 Commemorating the Relics of St. Athanasios the Great

Brethren, remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their lives, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go forth to him outside the camp and bear the abuse he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The Gospel Lesson is from John 4:5-42

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. →

The Samaritan Woman At The Well

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."

Why does the Church commemorate the Samaritan Woman today?

Christ reveals his human self by feeling hunger and thirst. But immediately he reveals his divine nature by telling the Samaritan woman the facts of her life. Because this is the first Sunday after Mid-Pentecost, the feast that stands half-way between Easter and Pentecost, Christ chooses to make these revelations, and to begin his ministry among others than the Jews. Let us pray today that we like the Samaritan Woman may bring others to the Church, testifying like her to the Divinity of Christ, for there is a harvest still to be reaped.

THE DISMISSAL HYMN IS THAT OF MID-PENTECOST

**In the midst of the holidays, my soul thirsts
for Godly refreshment with running water.**

**As you have said to all, O Savior,
"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink."**

KONTAKION

**The Samaritan Woman came to the well with faith and saw You,
the Master of Wisdom:**

**You satisfied the thirst of her soul,
and she inherited the Kingdom of Heaven forever.**