

## FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAR. 7-8, 2026a

Third Sunday of Lent

### Gospel Reading

Jn 4:5-42

So he 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 well is deep; where then can you get this living water?"

Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well 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 Anointed; when he comes, he will tell us everything.”

Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is 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 Messiah?”

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 his 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.”

### **Intercession**

Lord, through your death and resurrection, you have saved us from sin. May we know your redeeming power ourselves, and through support of the Catholic Ministry Appeal, may we help others into your saving grace.

### **Copy for Bulletin Announcement**

We live in one of the wealthiest nations in one of the most prosperous times in the history of the world. Our life is full of convenience and time for leisure. We flip a switch, and a room is illuminated. We can satiate our hunger quickly by popping food in a microwave or hitting a drive-thru on the way home from work. Need water? Turn on the tap. There’s no need to go to the well. But we are afflicted with a different kind of poverty, a poverty of spirit.

Good thing for Samaritan woman that she didn’t live in our time, or she might have missed her chance for redemption. Jesus speaking to her, let alone asking her for a drink, is unheard of. Samaritans are considered “less than” and not worthy of interaction. But he goes even further. When she says the Messiah is coming, Jesus reveals himself to her: “I am he, the one who is speaking with you.” His message is received, and believed, and her life is changed forever. With Jesus, no one is outside the fold—not even Samaritans—and no one is beyond redemption—not even the gravest sinner.

Are our priorities bringing us closer to Our Lord? Are we living according to God’s plan for us? Are we filling our “bucket” with Christ? As his disciples, we are called to live with heaven in mind, and we are also called to bring as many people as we can with us! The programs and ministries that the Catholic Ministry Appeal support unite people with Our Lord. This Lent, please consider the Catholic Ministry Appeal as a way of giving alms.

### **Copy for Pulpit Announcement**

Time is a precious commodity. There never seems to be enough hours in the day to accomplish all that we “need” to accomplish. Or so we tell ourselves. But if we want to have a beautiful life (not a busy one), a life sustained by faith in God (not just in ourselves), a life with an undercurrent of peace and calm (even in life’s inevitable storms), then spending time with Our Lord is in order.

Because time spent with Jesus leave us changed—for the better. The Samaritan woman has one conversation with Jesus and experiences a conversion that alters the course of her life on earth and in the hereafter! History is full of such profound changes of heart. Paul, one the early Church’s most vehement persecutors, becomes one of its most vocal and steadfast champions, willingly suffering imprisonment and death for his conversion. C.S. Lewis, one of the most prolific Christian spiritual writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, dabbled in atheism in his youth before coming to Christ.

Jesus invites us to enjoy his living waters, which lead to salvation: “the water I shall give will become ... a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” He is patient, waiting for us to come to him, never forcing himself on our will. Sometimes he people he chooses to spread his Good News are surprising, like Paul and the Samaritan woman. Sometimes they are ordinary individuals, like us. When we support the Catholic Ministry Appeal, we are bringing others to the Christ’s life-sustaining waters.

**Social Media Post/Content**

Photo: Ocean or stream scene

Header: “Whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst.” – John 4: 14

Copy: Our well will never run dry with Christ. Christ is the wellspring of our life! And we can be Christ for others when we support the Catholic Ministry Appeal.