

The Woman at the Well



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2023 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensword@gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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The Living Water



Have you ever been so thirsty you felt like you could drink a whole water fountain dry? Sometimes, after a long, hot day in the sun, a glass of cold water is the only thing we can think about!

In today's Gospel reading, we hear a conversation. And who is talking in this conversation? It's our Lord, Jesus

Christ, talking to a woman He had just met. They are standing near a well, so they talk about water. Jesus tells the woman, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst." Jesus calls His water "living water."

What is this living water? Well, it's really Christ Himself! Sometimes we try to fill our lives with lots of things: sports, food, fun times, clothes, and more! But all these things pass away and they turn out not to be so important. Those things are like the water that we just keep wanting to drink—we're still thirsty! But the living water is the kind that lasts forever. It's the kind that really satisfies us. It's the kind that really matters!

We can fill ourselves with this living water (Jesus Christ), too! We can ask our Lord to help us, just like he helped the woman in the story today.

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

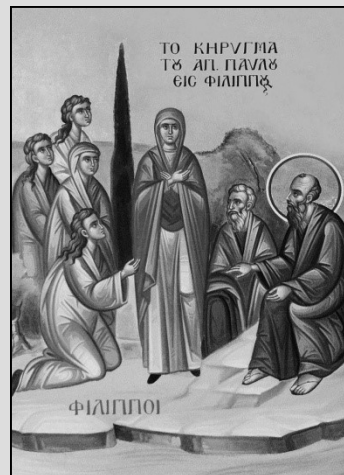
- Baptism
- Good News
- Living Water
- Lydia
- Message
- Preaching
- Samaritan
- Well
- Witness

B T S Y S J W J M Y Z Q M R Z
 Q Q F A Q S C O K U L R A P S
 G L G O M A E G D P J E N C V
 N I O M S A C N Q B G P Y Q M
 I V X Q D Q R Q T A L C F V A
 H I I S V C S I S I E A T K E
 C N S D D T S S T C W P W J D
 A G O O D N E W S A A I D Y L
 E W V B B M B O B K N L L E W
 R A T H Y A B A B A V I H I V
 P T V Y P W Q Q H I G U Y D W
 E E E T T W P T L D O F G Z L
 J R I H M I F F B G D A F J R
 T S E W M J H L Z F Q V D N W
 M N S Z E B Z F N E Q Q F I A

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is a little icon of Saint Paul preaching to Saint Lydia and the people in Philippi.

She listened to Saint Paul's words, and she was soon baptized.



SAINT LYDIA

THE FIRST CONVERT IN EUROPE

You probably became Christian as a baby, when your parents took you to church to be baptized. Maybe your parents became Christian when *their* parents took them to church to be baptized. And probably, so did their parents!



You can find this icon of Saint Lydia in the church named after her in Philippi, the town in Greece where she lived.

But what happened long ago, when there weren't too many Christians in the world? The apostles traveled all around, telling people about Jesus Christ, how He died and rose from the dead, and how He wants us all to be with Him in heaven one day. People listened to this good news, and after that, many people became Christian.

Saint Paul, the Apostle, traveled to Greece, to a place called Philippi. He met a woman named Lydia there. She invited St. Paul to her house and heard what he had to say. Then she began to believe in Christ and was even baptized. She was the very first convert to Christianity in Europe. Before that, nobody in Greece, or anywhere in Europe was Christian!

Did you know that you can visit the very place where Saint Paul baptized Lydia? There is a church there. It has a baptistery, kind of like a little pool where many people go to be baptized. What a special place!

We remember Saint Lydia on Saturday, May 20th (OC: June 2nd).