



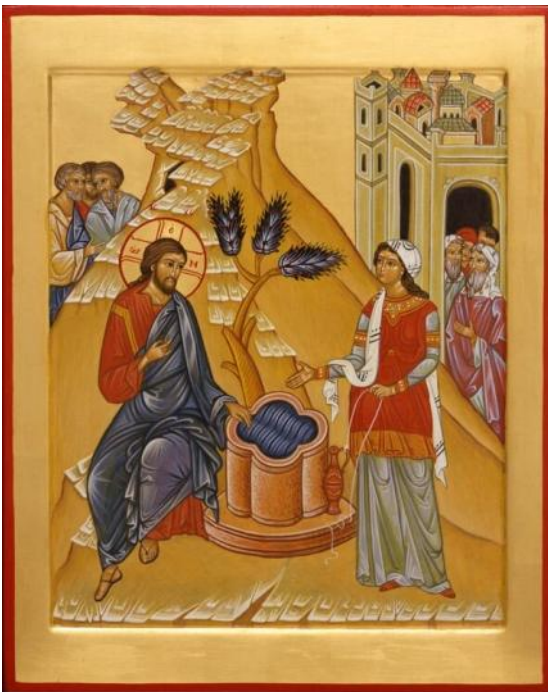
## The Season of **Epiphany**

### **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**

*Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.*

## **THE FEAST OF PHOTINI, THE SAMARITAN WOMAN**

Wednesday 26 Feb 2025 9:30 AM



From [Lessor Feasts & Fasts](#)

When Jesus passed through Samaria (John 4:3-42) he stopped at Jacob's Well in Sychar, a well that the patriarch Jacob had left to his son Joseph. Sitting by the well to rest, the Lord asked a Samaritan woman

who came to the well to draw water to give him a drink. The request violated cultural taboos—a man speaking privately with a woman, and a Jew speaking to a Samaritan—anticipating the theological insight of Galatians 3:28. Their brief encounter is one of notable theological depth in which Jesus makes the first of several important “I am” statements in John's Gospel. The Samaritan woman had been married five times and was living with a man to whom she was not married. Whether this was through her own fault or due to unfortunate circumstances beyond her control the text does not indicate. However, she has

[Continued Pg 11](#)

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Deacon Dorothy Gutwein**

## Entrance Rites

*The people stand as they are able.*

### **Opening Acclamation:**

**Presider** Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

**People** **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

**Gloria:**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you  
thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the  
Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of  
the Father:**

**receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High,**

**Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

### **Salutation:**

**Presider** God be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

**Presider** Let us pray

### **Collect of the Day:** *(All, in unison)*

**O Almighty God, whose most blessed Son revealed to the Samaritan woman that He is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the World; Grant us to drink of the well that springs up to everlasting life that we may worship you in spirit and in truth through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Word of God:**     *(please be seated)*

### **First Lesson: A reading from the book of Genesis (24:12–20):**

Abraham's servant said, "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. I am standing here by the spring of water, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. Let the girl to whom I shall say, 'Please offer your jar that I may drink,' and who shall say, 'Drink, and I will water your camels'—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master."

Before he had finished speaking, there was Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, coming out with her water jar on her shoulder. The girl was very fair to look upon, a virgin, whom no man had known. She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came up. Then the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me sip a little water from your jar." "Drink, my lord," she said, and quickly lowered her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Psalm: Psalm 119:73-80**

**73 Your hands have made me and fashioned me; \***

**give me understanding, that I may learn your commandments.**

**74 Those who fear you will be glad when they see me, \***

**because I trust in your word.**

**75 I know, O Lord, that your judgments are right \***

**and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.**

**76 Let your loving-kindness be my comfort, \***

**as you have promised to your servant.**

**77 Let your compassion come to me, that I may live, \***

**for your law is my delight.**

**78 Let the arrogant be put to shame, for they wrong me with lies; \***

**but I will meditate on your commandments.**

**79 Let those who fear you turn to me, \***

**and also those who know your decrees.**

**80 Let my heart be sound in your statutes, \*  
that I may not be put to shame.**

**The Second Lesson: A reading from the book of Colossians (2:16-23):**

Do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the universe, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world? Why do you submit to regulations, “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch”? All these regulations refer to things that perish with use; they are simply human commands and teachings. These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-imposed piety, humility, and severe treatment of the body, but they are of no value in checking self-indulgence.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Lesson: John (4:4–26):**

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (His disciples had gone to 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?” (Jews do not share things in common 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 no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The

water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never 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 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 the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these 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 proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

## Sermon

**Nicene Creed** (*Contemporary Version*) *All say together:*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

### **Prayers of the People:**

Leader: I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;

**People: For our Bishops Sean, and Jennifer, for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.**

Leader: Pray for the Church. *Silence*

Leader: I ask your prayers for peace;

**People: For goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.**

Leader: Pray for justice and peace. *Silence*

Leader: I ask your prayers for those who suffer in body, mind or spirit:

**People: For the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.**

Leader: Pray for those in any need or trouble. *Silence*

Leader: I ask your prayers for those who feel God's call in their hearts:

**People: For all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.**

Leader: Pray that they may find and be found by him. *Silence*

Leader: I ask your prayers for the departed

**People: For those we love but see no more.**

Leader: Pray for those who have died. *Silence*

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer pray for *The Diocese of Magwi – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.*

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for *St. Philip's In The Hills, in Tucson.*

**People: May God bless and guide them.**

Leader: We pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache and Tohono O'Odham peoples who call this area home.

**People: For greater understanding and cooperation between us towards the common good for all.**

Leader: Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

**People: May we have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. Amen.**

### **Confession of Sin:**

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*The people stand, sit, or kneel.*

**All: Holy One, we encounter you in our lives and try to follow faithfully, but so often we get lost or turn away. We try to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we frequently fail. We take the wrong path and stray from the ways of your love. Forgive us, Lord, and guide us back to you. Amen.**

### **Absolution:**

*Presider:* God of Love, we return to you, and we accept your grace, we accept your pardon, we accept the gift of a new chance to follow in your pathways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Exchange of the Peace:**

*Presider:* May the peace of Christ be always with you

**All: And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### **The Offertory:**

*Presider:* Offer to God a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

### **Offertory Hymn:**

Doxology (Hymn #380 v. 3):

**All: ♪ Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise him all creatures here below  
Praise him above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. ♪**

# The Holy Communion

EOW 2

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Presider continues:*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

**You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.**

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

*Presider and People:* Sanctus

*S#S124*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest**

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

**Living among us, Jesus loved us.**

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.

**He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.**



Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: *“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

*“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”*

Now gathered at your table:

**O God of all creation, remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.**

Pour out your Spirit (+) upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new Creation (+), the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

**In the fullness of time bring us, with St. Stephen and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.**

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, forever and ever. **AMEN**

And now as Jesus taught us, we pray: (*Contemporary Lord's Prayer*)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name.**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done**

**On earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,**

**Now and forever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread:** *(Presider breaks the consecrated bread in silence)*

Fraction: **ALL:**

***Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.***

**Invitation to Communion:**

Presider: These are the gifts of God for the People of God.

**People: Christ invites us all to be known and fed here.**

*(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. We have gluten free bread and real wine. To intinct/dip your bread into the wine, please go to the left altar rail. To sip wine from the cup please come to the right altar rail. If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing instead.)*

**Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel and Gratitude**

**Post Communion Prayer:**

Presider: Let us pray:

**All: Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Benediction:**

Presider: God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always. **Amen.**

**Dismissal:**

Deacon: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

**People: We are called to love and serve.**

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God's Spirit.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (*Alleluia!*)**

Continued from front:

the distinct honor of being the first person to whom Jesus reveals his Messianic title and the first person to preach the gospel that Jesus is the Christ. While unnamed in the Johannine text, Orthodox Christian tradition has it that the woman was baptized by the Apostles on the first Pentecost and given the name Photini, "the enlightened one" (Svetlana, in the Russian Church). Celebrated in the Orthodox Church as an Evangelist, "Equal to the Apostles," a significant hagiography developed around her. She, her sisters, and her children are said to have been cruelly tortured and martyred at the command of the emperor Nero. Over the centuries many churches have been built at the site of Jacob's Well, where Jesus held discourse with the Samaritan woman; the present church building within Bir Ya'qub Monastery was built in 1893 by order of the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem and consecrated to St. Photini.

More from [Wikipedia the free encyclopedia](#)

The **Samaritan woman at the well** is a figure from the [Gospel of John](#). [John 4:4–42](#) relates her conversation with [Jesus](#) at [Jacob's Well](#) near the city of [Sychar](#).

## **Biblical account**

Eastern Orthodox icon of Saint Photine meeting Christ

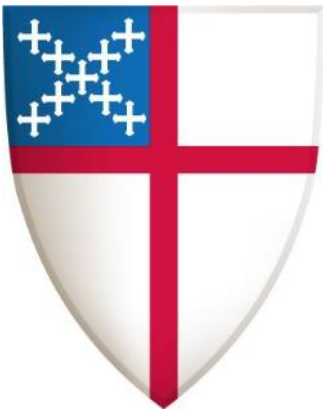
The woman appears in [NRSV](#):

Now when the Lord knew that the pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), he left Judea and departed to Galilee. He had to pass through Samaria. So he came to a city of Samaria, called Sy'char, 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.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to 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?" (Jews do not share things in common 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 no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

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[Continued online](#)



# ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Anv. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Adrs: \_\_\_\_\_ BrthDate \_\_\_\_\_

City, St., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_