

Christ is Risen



Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Christians are familiar with the Gospel account of the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well which is recounted every year on the Fifth Sunday of Pascha. Who was she? And what happened to her after her conversation with Jesus? "From a sinner [she] became a penitent and a saint, indeed, a preacher of Christ like Mary Magdaen."

Her name was Photina and "she is reckoned among the saints in the *Roman Martyrology*." "After her encounter with Christ, she and her whole family were baptized by the Apostles and became evangelists of the early Church." They preached the Gospel in Carthage in Africa but "were summoned before Nero" in Rome and ordered to renounce their Faith. They refused and were subjected to incredible tortures: "they were thrown into an extremely foul prison, and then shut up in a burning oven for three whole days from which they emerged unscathed. Time and again poison was given them to drink, and molten lead and pitch were poured into the mouth of Photina and the ears of the others, without them suffering any harm. They were repeatedly scourged with leather thongs and suspended on high by the head with iron combs, torn to pieces and burned with lighted torches which were applied to the martyrs' sides. Then at length their eyes were plucked out and they were brought back to prison." When brought back to the filthy prison, they were miraculously healed by a vision of Our Lord. Finally, they were beheaded, except for St. Photina who was thrown in a well. Her sons, St. Victor and St. Joseph, along with her five sisters and Sebastian the General were martyred with her. She has three feast days: February 26 (Greek), March 20 (in the Latin and Slavic tradition), and the Fifth Sunday of Pascha.

(Sources and Quotations: [The Great Commentary of Cornelius a Lapide](#), [Saints to Remember](#), [orthodoxtimes.com](#))