

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we enter the third week of our Lenten journey, this Sunday's Gospel (John 4:5-42) brings us to Jacob's well, where Jesus breaks social and religious barriers to meet a Samaritan woman. She came to draw physical water, but she was thirsting for something much deeper—acceptance, truth, and purpose. Jesus says to her, and to us: *"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."*

Lent is our invitation to stop relying solely on "wells" that run dry—material wealth, approval, or distraction—and to drink from the source of living water. The Samaritan woman's journey from curiosity to evangelist shows us that, despite our past, an encounter with Christ can transform our lives. Jesus always awaits us, offering "living water" to quench the deepest thirsts of our souls. Let us allow Jesus to reveal his love, to break down the walls of our own prejudices, and to fill us with the grace to become, like the woman, witnesses to the good news in our community.

This Sunday, I ask you to pray specifically for our Elect, those preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil, as we celebrate the First Scrutiny. Their journey is an inspiration for us all to renew our own commitment to conversion. Let us join them in praying the Psalmist's prayer: *"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."* (Psalm 95).

May God continue to bless our Lenten journey!

Fr. Luke