

(SLIDE) Wade in the water. Wade in the water, children. Wade in the water...all God's children are walking wet! Good morning, Christ the King! How great it is to be together to worship and learn as God's children of all ages, and as we celebrate two faith steps of our youngest members. Thanks for being a congregation that welcomes and encourages youth in their walk with God. I came prepared because this morning, not only are we walking, we are all "walking wet." Join me and let's sing our "Wade in the Water" chorus together. **(SLIDE) Wade in the water. Wade in the water, children. Wade in the water...all God's children are walking wet!**

Don't you just love water? We drink it. We bathe and shower in it. We play in it. We share it with our pets. We grow fruits, vegetables, and flowers with it... come to think of it *all* of life has a connection to water. Did you know that the human body is about than **60 percent** water? (SLIDE) Our brain and muscles are **75 percent**, what? **Water!** Blood is **92 percent? Water!** Even our bones are about **22 percent? Water!** Water is everywhere, in everyone. The map of the world could look like this! (SLIDE) Cool, huh? Water is a large part of who we are. That is part of the reason why we are walking wet, but as children of God, water has another importance in our life. Today I want to share one of my favorite stories. Our gospel comes from the Spark Story Bible and is the story of Jesus and the Woman at the Well. Now there was a gal walking...what...**wet!**

(SPARK STORY BIBLE SLIDES)

Wow! This story has so many things for to teach us. But a lot of things in this story don't make sense at first. This Samaritan woman is an outsider in her own community. People didn't like her and made fun of her. On top of that, she was a Samaritan, and at that time the Samaritans and the Jews didn't get along, at all. It was like the Montagues versus the Capulets, Romeo and Juliet fans. So here we have a Samaritan woman talking to Jesus, a Jewish man, in public! You should gasp! Let's hear it. On top of that, they meet during the middle of the day. Another gasp! The desert is very hot during the day, so women, who would go gather the water at the well, would go either very early or very late in the day to escape the heat. They would talk and

enjoy each other's company. But the woman in our story went in the middle of the day and she went alone.

Gasp! That is when she met Jesus. Gasp!

(SLIDE) Jesus asks for a drink of water. The woman is suspicious and afraid. Why would *he* talk to *her*, let alone *want* something from *her*. Then Jesus says to her everyone who drinks water will be thirsty again. Think about times when you are thirsty. Do you drink water with your meals? Or to take medication? Or when you exercise? Or when the weather is really hot, or even when it's really cold, and you have been working very hard? We get parched and need water to survive. No wonder **we are all walking...Wet!**

But Jesus tells the woman at the well about a different kind of water—living water. (SLIDE) You can't find it in a well or in a sink or even a lake, stream, or ocean. This living water comes from God. It is love that forgives, and it is life that lasts forever. It is the water that tells us **we are all walking...wet!** Jesus tells her it doesn't matter to God if she is a Samaritan or a Jew, or what the other people say about her. God will be there for her and she can go to God in faith and truth. Jesus tells her that he is the Messiah. She's the very first person to hear him say those words. The life-giving water he gives is God's grace. And there's nothing she needs to do to get it. It will sustain her as surely as the water of the well sustains her body. It is a gift, forever. This water is different than anything we have or can buy.

Think of it this way. (SLIDE) Do you ever go to a restaurant and get a pop, water, or coffee? You know how it works. You drink while you wait for your food, then again while you eat, then even more after you eat, then you take some for the road! Before you know it, you can feel like you are swimming! But the thing is, no matter how many refills you get, you will always still be thirsty later. I could drink 10 Diet Cokes today and still be thirsty tomorrow.

But Jesus says to us, "Look you can keep going back to the well or the pop refill line at a restaurant. You can keep trying to fill your lives with other things too, trying to have more money, or more power, or more toys, or alcohol, or just stuff, or more meaningless relationships, or a number on the scale that will tell your worth, but you will *always* still be thirsty. You will always be parched, always looking for something more."

Then Jesus says, “But what I give you (SLIDE) is living water that will never leave you thirsty. (LOTA BOWL) With me, you have hope. You have forgiveness. You have promise. You will never be empty – always there will be MORE – even during those times when you think you are empty and have nothing.”

Jesus brings living water because of his love for us. Jesus cherishes us and sprinkles goodness and mercy, minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day, year by year. Jesus never runs out of water, of time, of patience. Jesus never tires of listening to us or helping us. It is like a flood of love every moment. **No wonder we are walking...wet!**

Although the woman in our story doesn’t have a name, we are all like her at some point in our lives. Sometimes we are the outsider, the one who feels alone, the one who feels rejected or misunderstood, the one left out at recess, the one captive to our sin, our past, our fears. But God promises to always know us and have a place for us.

How do we know? Because of this water right here. In our baptisms God names us and claims us. We can trace the cross on our foreheads with this water and feel God’s love. We can know we are walking wet—splashed with God’s love! It doesn’t mean we will never doubt or be sad or hurt, but we are promised that in the end, Jesus will make it ok. Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Just as Jesus is with us now, we will be with Jesus forever.

(BLANK SLIDE) Today our Confirmands will affirm this gift of faith. Like the woman at the well, they will say, “I believe!” Not because their parents are making them or because they are graduating from the church and we will never see them again...right? 😊 But they are doing this because they are claiming their baptismal promises as their own. They are models, “sermons in shoes,” as they say, “I have the living water of Jesus. I’m walking wet, and there’s nothing you can do about it.”

I want to share a video with you about this gift. It’s a re-telling of our story today. It moves quickly so you have to listen carefully, but I think you’ll like it as much as I do. (VIDEO)

(SLIDE) Walking wet means trusting in our God who knows every thought inside, every hurt stored up, every hope, every dread. Walking wet means celebrating God's promises. Walking wet means telling others, sisters, brothers, lovers, haters, the good and the bad, sinners and saints, who should hear of this good news. We all need it for our own. We can all walk **wet**.

So don't get parched. Don't fill up on the emptiness of this world, but on the living water of Jesus. Use the water we can touch every day—in the shower, at the lake, at the sink, at the baptismal font, to be a reminder of the water that God showers upon us. Play in it, drink it, look at it, (SLIDE) wade in it. **Wade in the water. Wade in the water, children. Wade in the water...all God's children are walking wet!** As you go, I have water bottles for you to keep our body and minds hydrated— full of good things, throughout the day, but also so you see the message of Jesus' living water. Take them with you, decorate them, make them your own, and remember, "all God's children are walking **wet**."

Thanks be to God! Amen.