

Sunday, May 7, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Pascha - Tone 3
Sunday of the Paralytic

Troparion:

Let the heavens rejoice. Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm! He has trampled down death by death! He has become the first-born of the dead! He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted the world great mercy!

Kontakion:

By Thy divine intercession, O Lord, as Thou didst raise up the paralytic of old, so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts; so that being saved I may sing to Thee: Glory to Thy power, O compassionate Christ!

Prokeimenon in the 1st Tone:

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.
(Vs.) Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Tone 7 (St. Alexis):

The righteous one shall rejoice in the Lord and shall set his hope on Him.

Epistle:

The reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (Acts 9:32-43)

In those days it came to pass, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aene'as, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aene'as, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

Brethren, the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. (Gal 1:11-20)

Alleluia Verses:

I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation.

(Vs.) Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens.

Tone 6 (St. Alexis):

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. John. (Chapter 5:1-15)

At that time Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is at Jerusalem, by the pool of the sheep, a pool called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes. In these were lying a great multitude of the sick, blind, lame, and those with shriveled limbs, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel of the Lord used to come down at certain times into the pool, and the water was stirred. And the first to go down into the pool after the stirring of the water was cured of whatever infirmity he had. Now a certain man was there who had been thirty-eight years under his infirmity. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had been in this state a long time, He asked him, "Do you want to get well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred; for while I am coming another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet and walk." And at once the man was cured. And he took up his pallet and began to walk. Now that day was a Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; you are not allowed to take up the pallet." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your pallet and walk'." They asked him then, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet and walk'?" But the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away, since there was a crowd in the place. Afterwards Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "Behold, you are cured. Sin no more, lest something worse happen to you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

The Lord said to the Jews who had come to Him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, anyone who enters not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbs up another way, is a thief and a robber. But the one who enters by the door is shepherd of the sheep. To this man the gatekeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he has let out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. But a stranger they will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers." This parable Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what He was saying to them. Again, therefore, Jesus said to them. "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the Door of the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep have not heard them, I am the Door. If anyone enters by me he shall be safe, and shall go in and out and shall find pastures." (John 10:1-9)