

The Fourth Sunday of Pascha

Commemoration of the Paralytic

Apostle Simon the Zealot; Venerable Laurence of Egypt

Sunday, May 10, 2020

Tone 3; Eothinon 5

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and became the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Apolytikion for our Patron, Michael the Archangel (Tone 2)

O ye foremost of the heavenly hosts, we beseech thee, though we are unworthy, pray that we may be encompassed with a shadow of thine unearthly glory; preserving us who kneel and cry endlessly: Deliver us from oppression since ye are the prince of the highest powers.

Kontakion of Pascha (Tone 8)

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointmentbearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Fourth Sunday of Pascha)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises. Clap your hands, all you nations.

The Reading from the Acts of the Sainly and Pure Apostles (9:32-42)

In those days, 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 Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise **A**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.

THE GOSPEL (for the Fourth Sunday of Pascha)

**The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. John
(5:1-15)**

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda, which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first, after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for 38 years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk?'" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are

well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befalls you.” The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus Who had healed him.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*NOTE: There is **no** fasting for the forty-day period:
from Easter to the Feast of the Ascension (May 28th)*

Mid-Pentecost – Wednesday, May 13th

The Fifth Sunday of Pascha (Samaritan Woman)

Great Vespers – Saturday, May 16th, 5 p.m.

Orthros – Sunday, May 17th, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered by Laila Dawud, on Mother’s Day, with prayers for the birthdays her son, Nadeem, (May 11), her grandson, Assad David (May 18). May God grant them and her family continued good health and many years!

Special offerings and requests for prayer are being made . . .

for the first birthday of Michael David Tannous (May 9)
the son of David & Juliana Tannous

for Bobbi Monsue celebrating her birthday (May 20th), by Deacon Andrew, and children: Amanda, Megan, Stephanie, Justin, Jonathan and grandchildren: Samuel, Aaden and Nathan

for the continued health and prosperity of Adam Lamar

for Sharon Gorsch and family: Jeff, Claire, James and Barbara Bohamed

for the continued health and prosperity of Nestan Robinson and family

by Richard & Cindy Tamoush for the continued health of
aunt Mary Evans

for the speedy recovery and continued health of Emile Skaff

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Council Zoom Meeting - May 18, 7 p.m.

Live-streaming Sunday Orthros and Liturgy

Plan to view all of our scheduled church services on-line by logging on to: either **FaceBook** or **YouTube** via our parish website: <www.stmichaelvannuys.org> Your church offering may be made on-line via our website "Donation" tab or by mailing your check to the church at: 16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406. Mailing your check to the church will save our church a 3% service charge.

Zoom Meetings Scheduled [Please note the "security password"]

Teens — Sunday, May 10th and 17th, 11:45 a.m. "The Relationship Project;" **Use the link and security password provided in a direct e-mail**

Bible Study with Father Timothy — Monday, May 11, 7 p.m. **Use the link and security password provided in the parish e-mail**

Mid-Pentecost Orthros for Readers — Wednesday, May 13, 10 a.m. **Use the link and security password provided in the parish e-mail**

5th and 6th Graders — Thursday, May 14th, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. **Use the link and security password provided in a direct e-mail**

Pre-K - 4th Graders — Friday, May 15th at 3:30 p.m. **Use the link and security password provided in a direct e-mail**

Note: Father Timothy would welcome scheduling a Zoom Meeting with you and your family at any time by appointment.

Upcoming Events (see the foyer bulletin board for more information)

St. Michael Ladies Annunciation Tea - **Postponed to August 15**

Speaker: Mother Paraskeva of St. Barbara Monastery

Topic: "Sow to the Spirit: Preparing Now for the World to Come"

The 57th “Sweetheart Ball” - Saturday, April 25th at the Universal Hilton Hotel (**Postponed to November 7, 2020**)

Parish Life Conference - July 1-5, 2020 (**Cancelled**)

St. Nicholas Summer Camp - July 12 to August 1, 2020 (**Cancelled**)

Antiochian Clergy Symposium - July 20-24, 2020 (**Cancelled**)

29th Annual St. Michael Annual Golf Classic - Monday, May 18
(**Postponed to Monday, November 2, 2020**)

Raies-Murr Educational Trust Scholarship

Only members, in good standing of St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church (Van Nuys) or St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral (Los Angeles) and who have been accepted to or are currently enrolled in a **publicly supported** (not private) institution of higher learning, including eligible **publicly supported** vocational, technical and trade schools, are eligible to apply for a Raies-Murr Scholarship. Applications can be obtained by e-mailing Mallory Murr at: <RaiesMurrScholarship@gmail.com>. The applications must be returned by July 20, 2020.

Note to Coffee Hour hosts: coffee and paper goods will be provided each week.

Holy Bread Offering List

May 17 - open

May 24 - open

May 27 - open (Feast of the Ascension)

May 31 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Note: There are no Coffee
Hours scheduled (indefinitely)

Please contact Fr. Timothy (818/219-3761; pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread and Cindy Tamoush at: (818-345-4363; famtam5@socal.rr.com) to sign-up for the Coffee Hour.

Historically, **Mother’s Day** began in the 1600’s in England and was called “Mothering Day.” It was commemorated on the 4th Sunday of Lent in honor of working mothers. As Christianity spread through Europe, the celebration was changed to honor the *Mother Church* – the source of “spiritual power” and the protector from harm. It is especially significant to us Americans that today that



Mother's Day was first suggested by Julia Ward Howe (the author of The Battle Hymn of the Republic) seven years after the end of a very bloody American Civil War (1861-65). Julia's initiative was with the purpose of honoring mothers as a symbol of peace following the return of the many sons of war, some of whom did not survive. Yes, Mother's day was originally introduced in the United States as a day dedicated to peace! May God bless all of our mothers with good health.

Study: "Building a Worshipping Community"

All of Father Timothy's presentations: "Building a Worshipping Community" are now available on-line. Visit our parish website homepage <stmichaelvannuys.org> and click onto link of the presentations on the slider: Part I - "Children in Church;" Part II - "Church Hymnography; Antiphonal Singing and Chanting;" Part III - "Iconography in the Church; Their Order and Placement;" Part IV - "The Iconostasis, Its Purpose and Function." Part V, soon to be available will focus on "The 'Assembly of the Faithful' in the Nave and Its Furniture."

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622

His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig, Pastor
frtimothy@stmichaelvanuys.org

Church Telephone: 818/994-2313
www.stmichaelvanuys.org

May 7, 2020

Beloved in Christ,

Christ is risen!

His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH has recently updated his directive for beginning a new phase of your return to our church services. This information was provided in a Pastoral E-mail that was distributed on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 when it took effect; however we will continue to maintain no more than five (5) in attendance at our live-streaming services at this time.

We thank everyone for their patience and forbearance in remaining in touch with us and for your faithful support of our parish. The transition to a “new normal” in our nation will take time and needs our prayers.

Our construction project continues in full compliance with our City’s COVID-19 requirements that remains in effect and we are very grateful for the steady and prudent leadership of our Project Manager, Michael Malouf.

May God continue to grant healing to all who are undergoing tremendous suffering, comfort those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, many who are now unemployed and in search of a job, and everyone who remains at the forefront of workplaces in hospitals, care units, grocery stores, delivery and public services. Asking St. Michael to protect us all from every harm,

In the Risen Lord,

Father Timothy Baclig
Pastor

Then the following dialogue is said between the priest and the faithful:

Priest: Christ is risen!

People: Truly, He is risen! [repeated in various languages]

Al Maseeah qam! **Haq qan qam!** (*Arabic*)

Christos Anesti! **Alithos Anesti!** (*Greek*)

Kristos voskrese! **Voistinu voskrese!** (*Slavonic*)

Kristo esta resusitado! **Verdaderamente resusitado!** (*Spanish*)

Khristi ungal! **Vertet ungal!** (*Albanian*)

Le Christ est ressuscite! **En verite il est ressuscite** (*French*)

Kristos Inviat! **Adervaret inviat!** (*Romanian*)

Ua ala hou ‘o Kristo! **Ua ala ‘I ‘o no ‘oia!** (*Hawaiian*)

Christus is opgestaan! **Hij is waarlijk opgestaan!** (*Dutch*)

Kristus ist Auferstanden! **Sicherlich ist Auferstanden!** (*German*)

Khristus Zmartvikstau! **Zaiste Zmartvikstau!** (*Polish*)

Christos harjav i merelotz! **Orhniale harutjun Christosi!** (*Armenian*)

Kristos Tensiah! **Be-a-man Ten-si-a!** (*Tigrigna*)

Massih Miyayat! **Hatman Miyayat** (*Farsi*)

Kristo azukidde! **Kituufu azukidde** (*Luganda*)

Yeshu Christo Wierthayairnaytoo! **Sathamyeetoom Yeshu Christo wierthayairnaytoo!**
(*Malayalam*)

Kristo samawa, yomi gaimashta! **Hontoni yomi gaimashta!** (*Japanese*)

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by Death, and upon those in the tombs... **People: Bestowing life!**

Pastor's Sermon
By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
May 19, 2019

Next week Wednesday (May 13th) is the Feast of Mid-Pentecost, or the half-way point of the fifty-day period between Easter and Pentecost. The Gospel lessons of the Sunday just prior to Mid-Pentecost and those that follow all include something in common. In each of these Gospel lessons water is included and is a significant element of the healing which took place in each of the lessons. Today's Gospel lesson is of the healing of the paralytic in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate pool (Bethesda). Although the man never entered the pool, known for its miraculous healing power, the man who was paralyzed responded to Jesus' instruction to pick up his bed and walk.

In one of the hymns today we hear: *Lord, it was not the pool that healed the paralytic, but Your word. The power of Your voice was stronger than the chronic bond of the disease. Therefore he cast away the burden of sickness and took up his bed as a witness to Your abundant mercies...*

Today's Epistle lesson also describes the healings that began to take place after Christ's Resurrection when Peter, the Apostle, visited a paralyzed man named Aeneas. Peter's words were "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; arise and make your bed." We are told that the man rose immediately.

To properly understand Sacramental power, such as the power of God's healing, is to recognize the power of God's word; also that it is Christ who heals. God's word accompanies the tangible and material substances, whether it is water, oil, bread, or wine. They become a "point of contact," a means of communion with God, but not as an end in themselves.

For the woman with the hemorrhage whom the Lord healed, it was simply reaching out to touch the hem of our Lord's garment, for the Roman centurion with a dying son, a man who knew what it was to be one under authority; it was calling upon the Lord to say the word.

And so, for each of us, there is a point of contact: sometimes a situation or an important object (but not an idol), perhaps a person, a certain place that becomes for us a means (but not the location itself), but a means by which we experience or begin a process of healing. Sometimes, it may even require us to do something which is not easy: returning to a difficult memory, learning to forgive someone, going back to a certain place, overcoming a fear, facing a person, rediscovering peace.

Whatever it is, healing is not always instantaneous. It may take time or even require you and me to do something that may be difficult and challenging. It may even sometimes require us to begin doing something differently. And the older we get, the harder it could be! Why, because we like being comfortable. We find it easier to be at ease with what we are familiar with, even though sometimes, we know, it may not be what is best for us.

Having completed the course of Great Lent and Holy Week, the season of Pascha provides us with the opportunity to break through any of the walls and barriers, ways of thinking and behavior in our life that cause us to be spiritually and sometimes physically paralyzed. It also requires the acceptance of responsibility; discovering what is our job to do – not as a chore, but as a labor of love and a ministry; a work that has meaning in joyful service.

For all of us, sometimes it takes as much effort and open-mindedness after Great Lent as it did during Great Lent for us to rid ourselves of our mindset, even our prejudices. It begins with hearing what Christ is saying to us – and really has been saying for a long time: “Take up your bed and walk!”

From today’s lesson we are able to see clearly how our relationship with God involves knowing or discovering what we must begin to do for ourselves. Recognizing that there are certain things that no one else can accomplish for us (not even God!). It also pertains to the importance of our personal response to God’s word. It pertains to knowing what we must do upon hearing and learning His message and instruction; His wisdom. **Yes, doing what sometimes seems even impossible. Yes, doing even what we might think we cannot do. And yes, doing perhaps something that WE DO NOT WANT TO DO!** The paralytic in today’s

lesson was filled with excuses. He had a chronic sickness that was spiritually affecting his physical well being.

In the Vesperal hymn we hear his chronic condition described in this way: *The paralytic, who was like unto a dead man unburied, having seen Thee, O Lord, cried out, and "Have mercy upon me; for my bed hath become my grave. Of what use is my life? I have no need for the sheep's pool; for there is none to put me into the pool. How is it that I come to Thee, O Fountain of all healing, that with all I may cry unto Thee, "Lord Almighty, glory to Thee!"*

And so, on this, the fourth Sunday of Pascha, the Gospel lesson helps to see how our life in Christ (here and now) is to be a life illumined by the Resurrection. Our celebration of Christ's victory over sin and death is not only about those who have died in Christ. **The full experience of resurrected life is not only for those who are dead in Christ. You and I today must be a participant in what we proclaim in all that Christ has accomplished: For we are among those who have been baptized into Christ's Death and raised by His Resurrection. You and I are to live each day of our lives in that victory of what He has accomplished for us.**

We hear in the third ode of the Paschal canon: *Yesterday I was buried with Thee, O Christ, and today I rise with Thine arising. Yesterday I was crucified with Thee; do Thou Thyself glorify me with Thee, O Saviour, in Thy Kingdom!*

Prayer

We thank Thee, O Christ our God for your word that renews us today. Like the Paralytic, may we put aside our excuses and faithfully respond to your word to us. Help us to look beyond what we perceive as our limitations, to act in faith, hope and love. Strengthen us in our time of weakness and despair and help us as we take up our mats to walk. As we turn to you may we also be a help and comfort to those who need us. Keep us strong. Grant us courage. And fill our lives with your peace. For you are the Lord of mercy and of love toward mankind and unto you do we ascribe glory together with Thy Father who is from everlasting and Thine all-holy good and Life-giving Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. A-men.

Fourth Sunday of Pascha Commemoration of the Paralytic

Apostle Simon the Zealot; Venerable Laurence of Egypt

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الثالث

لتفرح السماويات وتبتهج الارضيات, لأنَّ الربَّ صنعَ عزاً بساعده, ووطئ الموتَ بالموت, وصارَ بكرَ الاموات, وأنقذنا من جوفِ الجحيم, ومنح العالمَ الرحمةَ العظمى.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع

أيها المتقدّمونَ على الأجناد السماويين, نتوسّلُ إليكم نحن غيرَ المستحقّين, حتّى أنكم بطلباتكم تكتنوفوننا بظلِّ أجنحةِ مجدِّكم غيرِ الهولي, حافظينَ إيانا نحنُ الجاثينَ والصارخينَ بغيرِ فتور, أنقذونا من الشدائد, بما أنكم رؤساءَ مراتبِ القوّاتِ العلوية.

قنداق القيامة على اللحن الثامن

ولئن نزلت إلى القبر يا من لا يموت, إلا أنّك درستُ قوّةَ الجحيم, وقمتَ غالباً, أيها المسيحُ الإله. وللنسوةِ الحاملاتِ الطيبِ قلتَ افرحن واهباً لرسلكِ السلامَ يا مائحِ الواقعينِ القيام.

الرسالة

رتلوا لإلهنا رتلوا, يا جميع الأمم صفقوا بالأأيادي
فصل من أعمال الرسل القديسين الأظهر

في تلك الأيام, فيما كان بطرس يطوف في جميع الأماكن جاء إلى القديسين المقيمين في لدة, فلقي فيها رجلاً اسمه إينياس, وكان كسيحاً يلزم الفراش منذ ثماني سنوات. فقال له بطرس: "يا إينياس, يشفيك يسوع المسيح, فقم وافترش لنفسك." فقام في الحال. فرآه جميع سكان لدة. وشارون, فاهتدوا إلى الرب.

وكان في يافا تلميذة اسمها طابيثا, أي غزالة, غنية بالأعمال الصالحة وإعانة المحتاجين. فمضت في ذلك الوقت وماتت. فغسلوها ووضعوها في العليّة.

ولما كانت لدة قريبة من يافا سمع التلاميذ أن بطرس فيها, فأرسلوا إليه رجلان يتوسلان إليه فيقولان: "تعال إلينا ولا تتأخر." فقام بطرس وجاء معهما. فلما وصل سعدوا به إلى العليّة, فأقبلت عليه الأرامل باكيات يرينه القمصان والثياب التي خاطتها غزالة معهن.

فأخرج بطرس الجميع خارجا, وجثا على ركبتيه وصلى. ثم التفت إلى الجثة وقال: "يا طابيثا قومي." ففتحت عيناها, ولما رأت بطرس جلست. فمد يده إليها وأنهضها, ثم دعا الاخوة القديسين والأرامل فأقامها لديهم حياة. فشاع هذا الخبر في يافا كلها, فأمن بالرب خلق كثير.

الإنجيل

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارَةِ القديسِ يوحنا

في ذلك الزمان, صعد يسوع إلى أورشليم. وفي أورشليم, قرب باب الغنم, بركة لها خمسة أروقة, تسمى بالعبرية بيت حسدا, يضحج فيها جمهور من المرضى, بين عميان وعرج ومفلوجين, ينتظرون تحريك الماء, لأن ملاكا كان ينزل أحيانا في البركة ويحرك الماء. فكان الذي يسبق إلى النزول بعد تحريك الماء يبرأ من أي مرض أصابه. وكان هناك إنسان مريض منذ ثمان وثلاثين سنة. فلما رآه يسوع مضجعا, عرف أن له مدة طويلة على هذه الحال. فقال له أتريد أن تشفى؟ فأجابه المريض: "ليس لي أحد, يا سيدي, ينزلني في البركة عندما يتحرك الماء. فبينما أنا ذاهب إليها, يسبقني غيري." فقال له يسوع: "قم واحمل فراشك وامش!" فتعافى الرجل في الحال, وحمل سريره ومشى. وكان ذلك اليوم سبتا. فقال اليهود للذي تعافى. "هذا سبت, فلا يحل لك أن تحمل فراشك." فأجابهم: "ان الذي شفاني قال لي: إحمل فراشك وامش." فسألوه: "من هو الذي قال لك احمل فراشك وامش؟" غير أن الذي شفي لم يكن يعلم من هو, لأن يسوع انصرف عن الجمع المحتشد هناك. ولقيه يسوع بعد ذلك في الهيكل, فقال له: "أنت الآن تعافيت, فلا تعد إلى الخطيئة, لئلا تصاب بأسوأ." فذهب الرجل إلى اليهود وأخبرهم بأن يسوع هو الذي شفاه.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعنى عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة, الا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا مقتصر فقط على أعضاء الكنائس الارثوذكسية والذين يحضرون أنفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتراف منذ فترة قريبة (وعلى كل حال, فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة في الخبز المقدس الذى يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن. إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضوا. فى الكنيسة الارثوذكسية