

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation May 23, 2021



The Sunday of the Paralytic

Troparion of PASCHA

Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs be-
stowing life!

Troparion of the Paralytic Tone 2

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 majesty, O Bountiful
Christ

Sentenced to Immortality

Man sentenced God to death;
by His Resurrection, He sen-
tenced Man to immortality. In
return for a beating, He gives
an embrace; for abuse, a bless-
ing; for death, immortality.
Man never showed so much
hate for God as when he cruci-
fied Him; and God never
showed more love for man than
when he arose. Man even want-
ed to reduce God to a mortal,
but God by His Resurrection
made man immortal. The cruci-
fied God is Risen and has killed
death. Death is no more. Im-
mortality has surrounded man
and all the worlds.

— Blessed Justin (Popovich)



PASCHA
CHRIST IS RISEN

Deus rescucitore
Cristo está recusitado
Christ est resuscitit
Christus ist auferstanden
Jezus Chrystus Zmatwychwstal
Christus prisikele
Hristos a Inviat
Cristo Resorto
CHRISTUS RESURREXIT
ΕΡΘΗΣΟΥ ΒΑΡΒΑΡΗ Η ΣΤΕΡΕΛΟΣ

Krisztus Föltámandt
Christ est ressuscitit
Christi Ungia
Krisztur er upatiginn
CHRYSTI RAIGAS

المسيح قام
Christ is risen
CHRISTUS RESURREXIT

حضرت عیسیٰ ظاہر ہیں
عصره عیسیٰ تکرار تولد شد
Christ is risen
CHRISTUS RESURREXIT

キリストが更生した

Announcements and Activities

Liturgy for the Midfeast of Pentecost—Wednesday, at 9AM.

Great Vespers—Saturday, at 5:30 PM.

Divine Liturgy – Sunday, at 10AM

Coffee Hours— This week's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Nina T. and Efrosinia I. I want to thank them and offer Many Years for their work in preparing this special meal for our Hierarch. Next week's Coffee Hour "mini potluck" is crossed out on the list in the hallway and the word "Pizza" is written next to it. Hmmm? I guess we are having pizza.

Parish Council— met last Sunday. We adopted a Treasurer's Report in black numbers (see bulletin board), and discussed numerous items related to the parish life and needs.

Episcopal Visit— What a joy to welcome our Archpastor, Vladyka Benjamin. It's been over two years since our Vladyka has visited us. Welcome! And Eis Polla Eti Despota!

Pray for... Hierarch Nikolai (Soraich)— battling Samir's friend, **Johnny, who has been improving in the battle to save his sight.** **Anna J.**, who is battling health issues related to her bone marrow transplant and battle with Lyme Disease. are battling health issues. **Zoya**, who lives in Russia and is suffering from the covid virus. **Brian**, Sunday's brother. **George and Alex**, health problems. **Reposed Darrel**, Kyle's father. **Diane F. recovering from Surgery.** **Erika and Family.** **And, finally, all those who have lost their lives or are suffering as a result of the current Pandemic (which has been growing in numbers across the country and in the world), wildfires, hurricanes, and civil unrest.** **Jerry**— Reposed. **Don, Judy, Paul, Thomas, Marcella, Paul Reposed, friends of Karen and Scott T.; Donald, reposed, a relative of Stephen and Luci F Macrina**— a friend of Mike L. **Archimandrite Alexander**— Fr. Lawrence's long-time father confessor. **Kerrie Photine**— receadsfafnt surgery, **Karen**— battling health issues. **Mitered Archpriest Basil**— a longtime Friend of Father's, newly reposed. **Newly reposed Emila and reposed Vadim. Maria S. hospitalized.**

Concerning The Sunday of the Paralytic:

Today's Gospel reading confirms us more and more strongly in the divinity of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The Gospels for the last two Sundays told us about the appearances of the Risen One. They were as if filled with the light of Christ's Resurrection: the wonderful appearances to the disciples, to Thomas, to the myrrhbearers. But today's Gospel starts with a dismal, horrible picture: there is no brightness, no light. At the Sheep Gate there was a pool which had five porches. "In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered... For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years" (Jn. 5:2-5).

Just picture this: thirty-eight years in such a terrible condition, in pain and suffering, without a doctor, without care, without medicine, and maybe even often without food. And this unfortunate man bore all this because he wanted to be well. He tried to enter the water after it was troubled, but he had no one to help him, was late, and did not receive healing. And so passed thirty-eight years. Why this is a human lifetime!

Suddenly everything changed. Jesus came up to him and said: "Rise, take up thy bed and walk..." and he walked (Jn. 5:8,9).

What happened? What took place? What happened is that the reason for his sickness was removed. Christ revealed this reason when He met this man in the temple and said to him: "Behold, thou art made whole: *sin no more*, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (Jn. 5:14). Here is the reason — sin. Sin is the reason for all evil, for all our sufferings, for all our sicknesses. Yes, sin...sin alone. And Christ is the only one who can destroy it, who can forgive. But this is under one condition: "*Sin no more.*"

We have lived through the Passion days, we have lived through the very death of Christ, the death of the Lamb of God, Who takes upon Himself the sin of the world. This means our sin, too. He, the Only Sinless One, has become the sacrifice for us before our Heavenly Father. And now we are walking in the Easter joy of the Risen Christ. And so week after week. But still we stumble, fall, sin. But let us not despond; let us turn to Him.

The pool at the Sheep Gate was only a shadow of what Christ performed and is performing. He alone is the source of healing and forgiveness. He alone, as God, can forgive sins. Let us turn to Him, and He will say to us the same words He said to the paralytic: "Rise, take up thy bed and walk."

And we will rise and walk again in the light of His Resurrection. But let us remember His words to the paralytic, "*Sin no more.*" And let us not sin, because *Christ is Risen*

(taken from *The Year of Grace of the Lord*, by a monk of the eastern church)

Translated from Bulgakov's Handbook, by Archpriest Eugene Tarris)

"There do not exist many or few, nor small or great problems. The only problem is the absence of Christ from our lives" (From the life and teachings of Elder Epiphanius Theodoropoulos)