

# SAINT ANTHONY ORTHODOX CHURCH



Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

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## SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC (4th after Pascha) 26 May 2013

*Apostles Carpus and Alphæus of the Seventy (1st c.); Martyrs Abercius and Helen, children of the Apostle Alphæus (1st c.); Augustine of Canterbury, Evangelizer of England (ca. 605); Greatmartyr George the New at Sofia (Bulgaria—1515).*

### AT THE BEGINNING OF SERVICES:

**Priest:** *Christ is risen from the dead ... (sung once)*

**People:** *Christ is risen from the dead ... (sung twice)*

### AT THE END OF SERVICES:

**Priest:** Christ is risen!

**People:** Truly He is risen!

**Priest:** Glory to His holy third-day Resurrection!

**People:** We adore His holy third-day Resurrection!

**Priest:** *Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death ...*

**People:** *... and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!*

## FIRST ANTIPHON

*Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, make his praise glorious!*

*(R.:) Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!*

*Say to God: How awesome are thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee! (R.:)*

*Glory ... Now and ever... (R.:)*

## SECOND ANTIPHON

*May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His Face to shine upon us, and have mercy on us!*

*(R.:* O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead: save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

*That Thy way may be known upon earth, thy salvation among all nations! Let the nations give thanks to Thee, O God, let all give thanks to Thee! (R.:*

*May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him! (R.:*

*Glory... Now and ever... (Only begotten Son ...)*

## THIRD ANTIPHON

Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered! Let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

*Christ is risen ...* [English, Byzantine melody]

As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire.

*Christ is risen ...* [Greek]

So let sinners perish before the Face of God, but let the righteous be glad.

*Christ is risen ...* [Arabic]

This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*Christ is risen ...* [Romanian]

## AT THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

TROPARION OF 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 has trampled down death by death and become the first born from the dead, He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades granting the world great mercy.

TROPARION OF SAINT ANTHONY THE GREAT (Tone 4, Russian): Like the zealous Elijah thou didst become, and followed John the Baptist in his upright ways. A dweller in the wilderness, thou didst steady the world by prayer. O Father Anthony, intercede with Christ our God for our souls' salvation.

KONTAKION OF PASCHA (Tone 8): O Christ God, though Thou didst descend into the grave, yet didst Thou overthrow the power of Hades, and didst rise as an immortal conqueror. Thou didst greet the myrrh-bearing women with joy, to Thine Apostles Thou didst send Thy peace, and to the fallen O Lord, Thou didst bring resurrection!

## TODAY'S APOSTLE READING

Prokeimenon:

*Chant unto our God, chant ye; Clap your hands, all ye nations!*

*The Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles*

(Acts 9:32-42)

**In those days**, as Peter went throughout all regions, he came down also to the saints who dwelt at Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who was bedridden for eight years and paralyzed. And Peter said to him: "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; arise and make your bed." And immediately he arose. And all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned back to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha (which means Gazelle). She was full of good works and of charitable deeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they placed her in an upper chamber. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him: "Come to us without delay!" So Peter arose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him into the upper chamber. All the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and other garments which Tabitha 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, arise!" And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and raised her up. Then he called the saints and widows and presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

## TODAY'S GOSPEL READING

*The Reading is from the Gospel according to Saint 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 ("house of mercy"), 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 thirty-eight 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.

## A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S READINGS

Today's readings from the Gospel of John and the Acts of the Apostles contain a similar and *amazing* story: the healing, at once, of a paralytic.

Note that the man whom Jesus heals had been trying, for all those years, to get into a pool of water reputed to hold miraculous healing power. Unfortunately, as the man complains to Jesus, **I have no man to put me into the pool!** The Gospel of John hints here at the fundamental confession of the Church: we *do* have a Man, because God has come in the flesh, as a man, to with us! And the great pool of Bethesda, where mercy and healing is found, (Bethesda means, in Aramaic, "house of grace" or "house of mercy"), is the Church itself: a hospital to impart healing, a pool of unending grace, a school to share knowledge of God, the community of those who have found the Man—Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Note also the subtle difference between the two accounts of healing: At the command of the Lord, "Rise, take your pallet and walk!", the man who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years regains his health; as for the Apostle Peter he call out to Aeneas, paralyzed for eight years: "Aenaes, Jesus Christ heals you – arise and make your bed!" Both with the healing of this man, or with the spectacular raising of Tabitha, the The here is the same: the Apostle does not work a miracle with "powers" of his own, but extends to Aeneas the healing that comes from Christ. Indeed, the Church does not have any power and authority other than that of Christ. And this is really the only way to taste (and then share with others) something truly new and truly unique—namely, the kind of Life that springs from the empty tomb of the risen Lord.

Finally, we are called, since we are an "apostolic" community, to continue the work of the Apostles by sharing with the world that which Christ makes available freely and abundantly to those who are members of the "house of grace" -- his Body, the Church. Obviously, we must start with ourselves: first taste and see that the Lord is good, then go proclaim. And so, we are called to take to heart what we have heard today: **Jesus Christ heals you – sin no more – arise!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today:** Trisagion prayers for Lance, at the 2-year memorial of his passing.

**Saturday, June 15: Andrei Șerbănescu and Nyoka Lewis are getting married!** Ignatius and Amy Green will be the sponsors of the new couple. Everyone is invited to the service and the banquet!

**2 pm:** Betrothal and Crowning service      **3:30 pm:** Banquet at the Ukrainian Hall.

### *Remember in your prayers*

LIVING: pr. Joseph, Richard, Sam, Lisa, Richard (Johns), George (Georgiades), Bill, Ed, Peter, Georgia and Scot, Karen, Victoria, Diane, Sula, Dollie, Dolores, Angelica, Karyn, Jonathan and Joanna, Andrei and Nyoka, Ignatius, Amy, and Ephrem, Benjamin, John, Hilda.

DEPARTED: Helen (Fr. Wargo's mother), Andy (Michaels), Jeannie (Ferver), Edmund, Richard, Dolores Patricia, Leatrice, Ed, Joseph, Fred (Dollie's uncle), Bob, Michael, Gabriel, Eugenia, Trevor, Faynasia.