

05/15/2022



Saint George The Great Martyr

Eastern, Orthodox Church

Hesperia CA.92345

[TEL:760-244-9223](tel:760-244-9223)

Fr. Alexander 626-335-8397/Dn.George: 760-792-8604

Website: WWW.STgeorgeoca.org

4th Sunday of Pascha, Paralytic

Christ is risen! Indeed he is risen. Imagine if you would: being dead, but not buried. You're absolutely helpless, can't do anything. Although you can see the good things and desire it, but unable to even touch it. Not only that, imagine being in that condition and someone ask you would you like to be Made-well? This is the case of this man that the Lord encountered at the pool of Bethesda. In this gospel reading, the merciful Lord shows us his great and abundant mercy even towards sinners. His eyes fail on this man who had been paralyzed for 38 years and he had compassion on him. The man complained unconsciously to the one who is capable of healing both soul and body! He made clear the selfish act of human nature, the lack of compassion in people. No one had compassion on him for when the water was troubled there is no one to assist him in the water. Every man for himself! But the Lord who is capable of seeing through the heart of men, and seeing the endurance and faith that this man is capable of. He came to him had compassion on him and told him get up take up your bed and walk. Immediately the Lord disappeared from the picture, so as to see what this man will do with his newfound freedom. This man did what the Lord commanded, in caring his bed. But because it was done on the Sabbath, he upset it the Pharisees. This man went to the temple to give thanks to God. The only natural thing to do! And that's when the Lord encountered him again. And we here the source of this man's sickness. It was sin! The Lord warned him, not to sin any more lest worst thing come onto him. In healing the paralyzed man we see the good news of the power of our savior who illumines the world with the light of his resurrection. The gospel shows us the path for the renewal of man's life made impotent through sin. That is why we cry out in the church by your divine intercession oh Lord Raise up my soul paralyzed by sin and thoughtless act. Today the Lord shows us there is no wrong time to do mercy. As Christians anytime we are able to share in the suffering of others and ease their burden. We should act promptly. We know the cause of many of our ailments is rooted in sin. So let us struggle courageously against the passions, rejoicing always in the infinite mercy of our Lord. Rejoice in the resurrection my brothers Christ is risen! Dn.George!

Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

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 to the world// great mercy.

Troparion ST. George: You wereGlory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

Tone 3 Kontakion (Pentecostarion)

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!”

Tone 8 Kontakion (Pascha)

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, Thou didst destroy the power of death.

In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women,// granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

Kontakion St.George...Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Steadfast protectress of Christian

Tone 1 Prokeimenon (Pentecostarion)

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

Epistle (23) Acts 9:32-42

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Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! **V.** *I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation.* **V.** *For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens.*

Gospel (14) John 5:1-15

(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:) The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:

Communion Hymn Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality!

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Orthodox Saints Quotes

With His one word alone, the Lord healed an invalid who had lain for 38 years near a healing pool, hoping to be made well, but vainly. And raising him up from his sick bed, He cautioned him respecting the future: "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (St. John 5:14). With these portentous words, the Lord indicated that the cause of the unfortunate man's fearful infirmities lay in the sins who had previously committed. In addition, he warned that sin inevitable brings with it not only such dire disease as paralysis, but even more dreadful ills. "Sin no more!" — it is the words of Christ's warning that should be the principle, founding motto, of our human existence. He who forgets this great God-given truth will have vainly wasted his efforts in making his own life as well as the lives of other people peaceful, joyous, prosperous, and happy. He who loves sinning will inevitable sooner or later fall prey to the oppressive affliction of the spiritual and physical feebleness. The sufferings of body and of soul will be his lot, and in the life hereafter — everlasting, unremitting torment. Is it not in this position of the inform man, lying helplessly by the Sheep's Gate pool, that all mankind finds itself today, madly rejecting Christ the Savior, refusing to acknowledge the existence of sin as such, and seeking various paths of life and salvation other than those which Christ, Our Lord, point out to us? Sin reigns ruthlessly among the people of today, smiting both the body and soul with its death-wielding venom. And for so long as sin maintains its dominion, there can be no liberation or deliverance from the world from all the evils that best it, and it is even meaningless to talk of its prosperity and preservation. It would seem that experience in life should long since have made this clear and comprehensible to everyone, but Alas! engulfed in the depths of sinful life, led about by diabolical pride and culpable self-love, self-confident people, who put their trust in themselves alone, easily forget the lessons which life itself teaches them, and no matter how many blows they receive in the course of their existence, whereby the Lord Himself instructs them, nevertheless it is frequent among them that, as God's Word instructs us, "according to the true proverb, the dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire" (II Peter 2:22). According to Church tradition, that is exactly what happened to the invalid upon whom the Lord had shed His bounty. He did not heed the warning, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." The lesson for the fourth week after Pascha, the week of the invalid, says that this infirm man, so wondrously healed by the Lord, was the very man who struck Our Lord Jesus Christ upon the cheek during the trial before the High Priest (St. John 18:22), for which he obtained "a trial worse than the weakening of limbs"— that eternal fire, not for eight and thirty years alone, but unto time everlasting, should torment him." You see to what extreme can come to those who do not remember the mercy and generosity of God. Pride and sinful self-esteem can lead the person who is unmindful of himself to the state of a madman, acting rashly, and doom him forever! The desire to ingratiate someone, to gain someone's favor, attention, and thereby some personal reward, frequently drives those who become infatuated with their sinful selves to such truly insane deeds that trail in their wake the most frightening and incorrigible consequences! + **Archbishop**

Averkya

Payers for the livings: Archbishop Benjamin, Abbot Tryphon, the child of God Monika, Marea and all our brethren of this Holy Temple.

Prayers for the Departed: all the orthodox that lie here and there asleep in the Lord, especially the Newly Departed servant of God Dimitrios.

Important Note

Bible Study: will resume after Holy Pentecost.

Ushers: the church is in dire need of few good men who will be performing the duties of ushers. If you are interested please see me. Dn. George