

MAY 23, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA
SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Re: Holy Myrrh-bearer Mary, wife of Cleopas

According to Church Tradition, Saint Mary was the daughter of Saint Joseph the Betrothed by his first wife. She was still very young when the Most Holy Virgin Mary was betrothed to the Righteous Joseph and brought to his house. Thus, Saint Mary became the childhood friend of the Most Holy Theotokos.

After the Righteous Joseph returned to Nazareth from Egypt with the Savior and the Mother of God, he married his daughter to his younger brother Cleopas, so she is known as Mary, the wife of Cleopas.

The blessed fruit of that marriage was the Holy Hieromartyr Symeon (April 27), an Apostle of the Seventy, a kinsman of the Lord, and the second Bishop of the Church of Jerusalem.

Saint Mary, the wife of Cleopas, along with other pious women, accompanied the Lord during His public ministry. She was present during his suffering on the Cross, and at His burial. After the Sabbath had passed, she went to the tomb with other Myrrh-bearers to anoint the body of Jesus. There, she and the others heard the joyous news of the Lord's Resurrection from an Angel (Matthew 27:56; Mark 15:40; Luke 24:4-11; John 19:25).

Saint Mary, the wife of Cleopas, is also commemorated on the Sunday of the Myrrh-bearers, the third Sunday of Pascha.

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: Seven stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 3, followed by two for the Paralytic

Resurrection, tone 3:

By Your Cross, O Christ our Savior,
death's dominion has been shattered;
the devil's delusion destroyed.
The human race, being saved by faith,//
always offers You a song.

All has been enlightened by Your Resurrection, O Lord.
Paradise has been opened again.

All creation, praising You, //
always offers You a song.

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.
I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:
the undivided, uncreated Godhead, //
the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

We bow down in worship before Your precious Cross, O Christ,
and we glorify and praise Your Resurrection, //
for by Your wounds we have all been healed.

We praise the Savior incarnate of the Virgin,
for He was crucified for our sake and resurrected on the third day, //
granting us great mercy.

Christ descended to hell proclaiming the glad tidings:
“Be bold! Now I have triumphed!
I am the Resurrection, I will lead you out, //
for I have shattered the gates of death!”

Standing unworthily in Your most pure house, O Christ God,
we offer our evening song, crying from the depths:
“You enlightened the world by Your Resurrection on the third day, //
Lover of mankind, deliver Your people from the hand of Your enemies.

(Paralytic) tone 1:

With Your pure hand, You created man;
You came to heal the sick, O compassionate Christ.
By Your word You raised the paralytic at the Sheep's Pool,
You cured the pain of the woman with the issue of blood.
You had mercy on the Canaanite woman's daughter.
You did not reject the request of the centurion.
Therefore we cry to You: //
“Glory to You, O Almighty Lord!”

The Paralytic was like an unburied corpse.
He saw You and shouted: “Lord, have mercy on me!
My bed has become my grave! Why should I live?
What use is the Sheep's Pool to me?
I have no one to put me into the pool when the waters are stirred.
I come to You, O Fountain of healing.
Raise me up, that with all I may cry to You: //
“Glory to You, O Almighty Lord!”

GLORY... (Paralytic) tone 5:

Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

He came to the Sheep's Pool, called in Hebrew "Bethsaida."

It had five porches, each filled with a multitude of the sick,
for at certain times an Angel of the Lord stirred up the water,
and granted strength to those who approached in faith.

There the Lord saw a man who for many years had been afflicted.

He said: "Do you want to be whole?"

The sick man replied to the Lord:

"I have no man to lower me into the pool when the water is stirred.

I have spent all my wealth on physicians,
but have not been granted mercy!"

The Physician of souls and bodies said to him:

"Take up your bed and walk!//

Proclaim My power and great mercy to the ends of the earth!"

NOW AND EVER... the Dogmatikon in tone 3:

How can we not wonder

at your mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?

For without receiving the touch of man,

you gave birth to a Son in the flesh, immaculate Virgin.

The Son born of the Father before eternity

was born of you at the fullness of time, O honored Lady.

He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,

but preserved the fullness of each nature.

Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin, and Mother,

to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess you//

to be the Theotokos.

APOSTIKHA: We sing the first verse of the Resurrection in tone 3:

The sun was darkened by your Passion, O Christ,

but all creation was enlightened by the light of Your Resurrection.//

Accept our evening song, O Lover of mankind!

Then we sing LET GOD ARISE... and the Paschal verses until the GLORY...

GLORY... Paralytic, tone 8:

Solomon's porch was filled with the sick.

In the middle of the feast,

Christ found a man who had been paralyzed thirty-eight years.

He shouted to him in a commanding voice: "Do you want to be healed?"

The sick man replied: "Lord, when the water is stirred,

I have no man to lower me into the pool."

The Lord said to him:

“Pick up your bed!

Now that you are healed, see that you sin no more!”

Show to us Your great mercy, O Lord, //

through the prayers of the Theotokos!

NOW AND EVER... The rest of the Paschal verses: “THIS IS THE DAY OF RESURRECTION”...

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 3:

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.

Glory... now & ever... Amen.

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion, tone 3:

We praise you as the mediatrix of our salvation,

O Virgin Theotokos.

For your Son, our God, Who took flesh from you,

accepted the Passion on the Cross, //

delivering us from corruption as the Lover of Man.