

**MAY 15, 2022**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA**  
**SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC**

Many miracles in the Old Testament involve water. To name but a few, the water of the Nile turned to blood after Moses lifted his rod and struck the water before Pharaoh and His servants (Exodus 7:20). Not only was the Nile turned to blood, but also "their rivers, their canals, their ponds, and all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and there shall be blood throughout the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone" (Exodus 7:19).

In chapter 14 of Exodus, Moses divided the waters of the Red Sea, and the Hebrews passed over as if on dry land. When they were safely across, the waters came together, and their Egyptian pursuers were drowned.

On their forty year journey to the Promised Land, the Hebrews camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for them to drink. The people murmured against Moses, asking him why he had led them out of Egypt. God told Moses to strike the rock at Horeb. Then water came out of it so that everyone could drink (Exodus 17:6).

In Judges 6:36-40 we read about Gideon and the dew on the fleece. When Gideon squeezed the fleece, there was enough to fill a bowl with water.

On the Fourth Sunday of Pascha, the Church remembers the man who lay paralyzed at the Sheep Pool in Jerusalem for thirty-eight years, waiting for someone to put him into the pool. The first person to enter the pool after an Angel troubled the water would be healed of his infirmities, but someone always entered the pool before him. Seeing the man, the Lord felt compassion for him and healed him.

The Lord healed the paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and He remained there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Theologian, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.

Like some Old Testament miracles, many of Christ's miracles also involved water, and they prefigure the Church's Baptism, which cleanses us of every sin. In the Sheep Pool, once a year, only one person was healed, but Christ saves endless multitudes by divine

Baptism. Sometimes, as in the case of Saint Vladimir (July 15), Baptism can also heal our bodily infirmities.

In the Canon for the Paralytic, the Angel who stirred the water in the Sheep Pool is identified as the Archangel Michael. Some of the Troparia call him "Leader of the Angels," and "Supreme Commander" (Ode 1). In Ode 3 we ask him to "protect us from falling into the passions of life." In Ode 6, we ask Saint Michael to guide us on the paths of life." In Ode 8, we ask him to pray with all the Bodiless Hosts, that we may be granted deliverance from our offenses, correction of our life, and the enjoyment of eternal blessings.

As we remember the paralytic, let us ask Christ to "raise up our souls, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts" (Kontakion of the paralytic).

**GREAT VESPERS**

***LORD I CALL: Seven stikhera of the resurrection in tone 3 (spiral bound Vespers book), followed by two for the Paralytic 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(spiral bound Vespers book)***

***APOSTIKHA: We sing the first verse of the Resurrection in tone 3 (spiral bound Vespers book). Then 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**

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.

**Resurrection 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.

**Saint John of Damascus Orthodox Church**

Rector: Father Michael Anderson

16903 Espola Rd

Poway, CA 92064

Email: [powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org](mailto:powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org)

Office: 858-674-1931