

Sunday, April 25

Sunday of the Paralytic

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life.

Tropar, tone 3: Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice, * for the Lord has done a mighty deed with His arm. * He trampled death by death; He became the first born of the dead; * He saved us from the abyss of Hades * and granted great mercy to the world.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Kondak, tone 3: With your divine protection, O Lord, * as You once raised the Paralytic, now lift up my soul * paralyzed with all kinds of sin and evil deeds of wickedness, * so that, as saved, I may cry out to You: * "Glory to your might, O merciful Christ."

Now and for ever and ever. Amen!

Kondak, tone 8: Though You went down to the grave, immortal Lord, * You destroyed the power of Hades* and rose victorious, Christ our God. * You who said "Rejoice" to the myrrh-bearing women, * give peace to Your apostles * and offer resurrection to the fallen.

Prokimen, tone 1: Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have hoped in You.

Verse: Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

Epistle: Acts of the Apostles (9: 32-42)

In those days Peter was making numerous journeys, he went -- among other places -- to God's holy people living in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years. Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ cures you! Get up and make your bed." The man got up at once. All the inhabitants of Lydda and Sharon, upon seeing him, were converted to the Lord. Now in Joppa there was a certain woman convert named Tabitha (in Greek Dorcas, meaning a gazelle). Her life was marked by constant good deeds and acts of charity. At about that time she fell ill and died. They washed her body and laid it out in an upstairs room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples who had heard that Peter was there sent two men to him with the urgent request, "Please come over to us without delay." Peter set out with them as they asked. Upon his arrival they took him upstairs to the room. All the widows came to him in tears and showed him the various garments Dorcas had made when she was still with them. Peter first

made everyone go outside; then he knelt down and prayed. Turning to the dead body, he said, "Tabitha, stand up." She opened her eyes, then looked at Peter and sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her to her feet. The next thing he did was to call in those who were believers and the widows to show them that she was alive. This became known all over Joppa, and because of it, many came to believe in the Lord.

Alleluia Verses: *The favors of the Lord I will sing forever, through all generations.*

For you have said: my kindness is established forever.

Gospel: John 5: 1-15

At that time Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Pool there is a place with the Hebrew name Bethesda. It's five porticoes were crowded with sick people lying there blind, lame or disabled, waiting for the movement of the water. For from time to time an angel of the Lord used to come down into the pool; and the water was stirred up, so the first one to get in was healed of whatever sickness he had had. There was one man who had been sick for thirty-eight years. Jesus, who knew he had been sick a long time, said when he saw him lying there, "Do you want to be healed?" "Sir," the sick man answered, "I do not have anyone to plunge me into the pool once the water has been stirred up. By the time I get there, someone else has gone in ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up! Pick up your mat and walk!" The man was immediately cured; he picked up his mat and began to walk. The day was a sabbath. Consequently, some of the Jews began telling the man who had been cured, "It is the sabbath, and you are not allowed to carry the mat around." He explained, "It was the man who cured me who told me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'" "This person who told you to pick it up and walk," they asked, "who is he?" The man who had been restored to health had no idea who it was. The crowd in that place was so great that Jesus had been able to slip away. Later on, Jesus found him in the temple precincts and said to him: "Remember, now, you have been cured. Give up your sins so that something worse may not overtake you." The man went off and informed the Jews that Jesus was the one who had cured him.

Instead of 'It is truly right....': The angel cried out to the One full of grace: * "O chaste Virgin, rejoice!
* And again, I say, rejoice! * Your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day * and raised the dead." * Let all people rejoice! * Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, * for the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! * Exalt now and be glad, O Sion! * And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight * in the resurrection of your Son.

Communion Hymn: Receive the Body of Christ; partake of the source of immortality. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!