

Sunday, May 2

Sunday of the Paralytic

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

Tropar, Tone 4: When the disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the glorious news of the resurrection * and cast off the ancestral condemnation, * they proudly told the apostles: * "Death has been plundered! Christ our God is risen * granting to the world great mercy." Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Kondak, tone 8: When the Samaritan woman came to the well with faith, * she beheld You, O Water of Wisdom. * You allowed her to drink in abundance * and glorified her eternally, * for she inherited the heavenly kingdom. Now and for ever and ever. Amen!

Kondak of the Mid-feast, tone 4: O Christ God, Creator and Lord of all, * when the Paschal Feast was half completed, * You told those present: * "Come and draw the water of immortality." * Let us, therefore, adore You and cry out with faith: * "Grant us your goodness, for You are the Source of our life."

Prokimen, tone 3: Sing to our God, sing; sing to our King, sing.

Verse: All you peoples, clap your hands, shout to God with cries of gladness.

Epistle: Acts of the Apostles (11: 19-26, 29-30)
In those days those in the community who had been dispersed by the persecution that arose because of Stephen went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, making the message known to none but Jews. However, some men of Cyprus and Cyrene among them who had come to Antioch began to talk even to the Greeks, announcing the good news of the Lord Jesus to them. The hand of the Lord was with them and a great number of them believed and were converted to the Lord. News of this eventually reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, resulting in Barnabas' being sent to Antioch. On his arrival he rejoiced to see the evidence of God's favour. He encouraged them all to remain firm in their commitment to the Lord, since he himself was a good man filled with the Holy Spirit and faith. Thereby large numbers were added to the Lord. Then Barnabas went off to Tarsus to look for Saul; once he had found him, he brought him back to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and instructed great numbers. It was in

Antioch that the disciples were called Christians for the first time. This made the disciples determine to set something aside, each according to his means, and send it to the relief of brothers who lived in Judea. They did this, dispatching it to the presbyters in the care of Barnabas and Saul.

Alleluia Verses: Bend your bow, prosper and reign for the sake of truth, meekness and justice. You love justice and hate wickedness.

Gospel: John 4: 5-43

At that time Jesus came to a Samaritan town named Shechem near the plot of land which Jacob had given to his son Joseph. This was the site of Jacob's well. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down at the well. The hour was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone off to the town to buy provisions.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew. How can you ask me, a Samaritan and a woman, for a drink?" (Recall that Jews have nothing to do with Samaritans.) Jesus replied: "If only you recognized God's gift, and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him instead, and he would have given you living water." "Sir," she challenged him, "you do not have a bucket and this well is deep. Where do you expect to get this flowing water? Surely you do not pretend to be greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it with his sons and his flocks?" Jesus replied: "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks the water I give him will never be thirsty; no, the water I give shall become a fountain within him, leaping up to provide eternal life." The woman said to him, "Give me this water, sir, so that I shall not grow thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." He said to her, "Go, call your husband, and then come back here." "I have no husband," replied the woman. "You are right in saying you have no husband!" Jesus exclaimed. "The fact is, you have had five, and the man you are living with now is not your husband. What you said is true." "Sir," answered the woman, "I can see you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you people claim that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship God." Jesus told her: "Believe me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand, while we

understand what we worship; after all, salvation is from the Jews. Yet an hour is coming, and is already here, when authentic worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth. Indeed, it is just such worshipers the Father seeks. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.” The woman said to him: “I know there is a Messiah coming. (This term means Anointed.) When he comes, he will tell us everything.” Jesus replied, “I who speak to you am he.” His disciples returning at this point, were surprised that Jesus was speaking with a woman. No one put a question, however, such as “What do you want of him?” or “Why are you talking with her?” The woman left her water jar and went off into the town. She said to the people: “Come and see someone who told me everything I ever did! Could this not be the Messiah?” At that they set out from the town to meet him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he told them: “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” At this the disciples said to one another, “Do you suppose that someone has brought him something to eat?” Jesus explained to them: “Doing the will of him who sent me and bringing his work to completion is my food. Do you not have a saying: ‘Four months more and it will be harvest!’? Listen to what I say: Open your eyes and see! The fields are shining for harvest! The reaper already collects his wages and gathers a yield for eternal life, that sower and reaper may rejoice together. Here we have the saying verified: ‘One man sows; another reaps.’ I sent you to reap what you had not worked for. Others have done the labour, and you have come into their gain.” Many Samaritans from that town believed in him on the strength of the woman’s word of testimony: “He told me everything I ever did.” The result was that, when these Samaritans came to him, they begged him to stay with them awhile. So he stayed there two days, and through his own spoken word many more came to faith. As they told the woman: “No longer does our faith depend on your story. We have heard for ourselves, and we know that this really is the Saviour of the world.”

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!