

Христос Воскрес! Воистину Воскрес! Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

We extend a warm “Happy Easter Season” to all our parishioners and their families!

May 3, 2020 ~ Sunday of the Paralytic

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Acts 9: 32-42

Gospel: John 5: 1-15



May 10, 2020 ~ Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Acts 11: 19-26; 29-30

Gospel: John 4: 5-42

Parish News and Events

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family of †Mario Brescacin on his passing on Tuesday, April 28. “Mars” lived a long life and we are privileged to have known and worshipped with him. May the Risen Lord accept his servant †Mario in His heavenly kingdom, number him among the just and may his memory be everlasting ~ вічна йому пам'ять.



Despite the fact that we are still in the season of Easter, May signifies the month of Mary with special devotions to her. And although we might not yet be able to return to church to pray to her together, praying the Rosary at home on a daily basis, especially during this global pandemic, is the right thing to do. In a month when we celebrate Mother's Day, we

honour Mary who firmly believed her Son's words when He foretold His resurrection from the dead of the third day. Thus, the faith and hope of the newborn Church was concentrated in her. *O pray to God, thou Virgin fair, that He, our souls to heaven, bear. Alleluia! O pray for us, O Mary!*

St. George's Society regretfully announces the cancellation of its annual **Mother's Day Brunch** in our parish hall originally scheduled for Sunday, May 10. Members will look forward to serving our mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and godmothers next year. Until then, remember: you are cared for and appreciated beyond measure, and we wish you all good health, long life and much happiness. Многая і благая літа!

Our sincerest thanks to all who have been mailing in their weekly donations or dropping them into the mail slot at the rectory. It has certainly helped to prevent a shortfall during this unprecedented time. With your continued support, we have been able to cover our regular bills and meet our parish expenses. And remember: if you would like to have a candle lit, you can include this in your (weekly) contribution, indicating the number of candles and size, and for whom the candle is to be lit on an accompanying slip of paper. The cost remains at \$3.⁰⁰ ea. for large and 50¢ ea. for small. ☺



Your Return Gift to God

Let us strive to live as Christian stewards, receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them generously and lovingly with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.



APRIL 26

Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter): \$1,005.⁰⁰

Regular Envelopes: \$880.⁰⁰

Mission: \$35.⁰⁰ Special Projects: \$50.⁰⁰

Note: Since donations are being received throughout the week, totals will be approximated.

The Mission Collection from **January to June 2020** is for Thunder Bay Regional Hospital's “Our Hearts at Home” campaign. The running total after the first four months (January to April) is \$1,346.³⁵.



The Sunday Gospels of the Easter season after the Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women all reference water: the paralytic encounters Christ as he sat by the waters of Bethesda. the Samaritan woman comes upon Christ by the well, and the blind man finds salvation as he washes in the pool of Siloam. In all these Gospels, we find water, a clear echo of baptism for those to whom baptism was linked with Pascha. The presumed descent of the angel into the Bethesda pool foreshadowed the spiritual and transformative power of Christian baptism.

In the middle of this fourth week, the middle day (Wednesday) between Easter and Pentecost is solemnly celebrated. It is called the feast of Mid-Pentecost, at which Christ, “in the middle of the feast” teaches those of His saving mission and offers to all “the waters of immortality” (John 7:14). Again, we are reminded of the Master's presence and His saving promise: “If anyone is thirsty let him come to Me and drink” (John 7:37). We think also once again of our death and resurrection with Christ in our baptism, and our reception of the Holy Spirit from Him in our chrismation. We “look back to one and anticipate the other” as one of the hymns of the feast puts it. We know that we belong to that kingdom of the Risen Christ where “the Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price” (Rev. 22:17; Isaiah 55:1).

This is the newness of Pascha, and the new life given to us in baptism. Our Paschal season reminds us that this is where we find new life and constant renewal as well.

Schedule of Liturgical Services

All public services remain **suspended** until further notice. You can access a number of live streaming liturgical services on the Internet. The full list is on our Facebook page (Facebook/holycrossbay) or on the Royal Doors website — www.royaldoors.net. You can also visit various Eparchy websites such as www.skeparchy.org and click on **Liturgy Live**.

Until we meet together again, please continue to pray and meditate daily.

O Most Holy Mother of God, save us!



ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

A note to all members: The Executive would like to ensure you that all society business is being taken care of on a regular basis. They also realize that face-to-face interaction with fellow members may be little to none; however, you are encouraged to find ways to connect with each other through Skype, Facebook chats, Zoom, Facetime, and your regular landline and convenient mobile devices. When things return to normal, we will gather to resume our parish and community events and will look forward to celebrating our 60th year of existence. Above all, we need to work together to stay strong during this uncertain time, so we'll all be healthy and ready to resume our love and service to God.

Cancelled or postponed events

The 2020 **Ontario Volunteer Service Awards** ceremonies;

The annual **Mother's Day Brunch** on Sunday, May 10;



Superior Shores Gaming Centre remains closed with no indication of re-opening as of yet. Our next scheduled bingo is also a matinee on **Tuesday, May 12**, but again, this date is tentative. SSGA administrative staff will provide updates as changes happen.

Our **60th anniversary celebrations**, tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, June 20**, are also on hold until such time as the local venues are allowed to re-open their doors.

Finally, a spring issue of **The Plentiful Harvester** is being developed and will be ready for mid-May. E-versions and hard copies will be available when ready.

Love and Service to God since 1960!

HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS

To all members: All hall activities remain cancelled until further notice (including monthly evening buses to Grant Portage). We encourage all to keep practicing social distancing/self-isolation especially if you have a pre-existing condition that might further aggravate the situation. Remember to stay in close contact with your family members, but limit gatherings and visits at this time. And unless you are in need of supplies or medical assistance, please remain at home. Those with a computer and Internet capability can choose to visit Ontario's website at www.ontario.ca for more information as to how the government is protecting us from this deadly virus — it's available in English, Ukrainian and other languages as well. Stay safe and healthy until we are allowed to gather together again.

*"Do not regret growing older.
It's a privilege denied to many."*

EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Due to government restrictions, all community events and gatherings have been cancelled or postponed at this time. Please check our local newspaper or online version for updates. Let us all strive our best to 'flatten' the curve, and to end this pandemic soon.



Science says that we need at least
4 basic elements to survive.

1. Water
2. Air
3. Food
4. Light

And look what the Bible
tells us about Jesus:

1. I am the source of living water.
2. I am the breath of life.
3. I am the bread of life.
4. I am the light of the world.

Science was right, we need
JESUS to LIVE!

O Mother of Perpetual Help, you are the dispenser of all gifts which God grants to us lowly sinners; and for this end He has made you so powerful, so rich, and so bountiful, in order that you may assist us in our misery. You are the advocate of the most wretched and abandoned sinners who have recourse to you. In your hands I place my eternal salvation, and to you I entrust my soul.

Count me among your most devoted servants; take me under your protection, and it is enough for me. For, if you protect me, I fear nothing; not even my sins because you will obtain for me the pardon of them; nor from the devils because you are more powerful than all hell together; nor even from Jesus, my Judge, because of one prayer from you He will be appeased. But one thing I fear; that in the hour of temptation I may through negligence fail to have recourse to you and thus perish miserably. Obtain for me, therefore, the pardon of my sins, love for Jesus, final perseverance, and the grace ever to have recourse to you, O Mother of Perpetual Help. Amen. (Pray 9 Hail Marys)



READINGS FOR THE SIXTH & SEVENTH SUNDAYS OF EASTER

Sixth Sunday (May 17)
Of the Man Born Blind

Epistle: Acts 16: 16-34
In prison at Philippi

Gospel: John 9: 1-38
Jesus heals a man born blind

Seventh Sunday (May 24)
Sunday after the Ascension

Epistle: Acts 20: 16-18, 28-36
Paul's Farewell Speech to Ephesus

Gospel: John 17: 1-13
Jesus prays for His disciples

As you read each passage, ask yourself these questions:
"What thoughts, ideas, words or images come to mind?"
and "What are the connections between them?"
This will help make them easier to follow and understand.



Each One Can Reach One

How many of you know what dominoes are? Isn't it fun to play with dominoes – and there are so many things besides the actual game that you can play. You build a house or a tower and see how tall you can make it before it comes tumbling down. One of the most fun things to do with dominoes is to stand them up on end in a long line which some of you have probably done. You very carefully set up the dominoes, and when you are done, you topple the first domino and watch the others as they fall. It's so cool!

It isn't just children who enjoy doing that with dominoes – adults enjoy it, too. In fact, each year people from all over the world gather for "Domino Day" and try to set a new record for the number of dominoes to be set up and toppled. You may find it hard to believe, but the current record is more than 4 million! Can you imagine? It took about two hours for all of the dominoes to topple -- and it all started with just one domino.

You may be wondering, "What does this have to do with our Bible story for today?" Well, it does. In our Bible story today, Jesus appeared to His disciples after He had risen from the dead. At first, the disciples were afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost. Jesus told them not to be afraid. He

showed them the nail scars in His hands and feet and invited them to touch Him. "A ghost doesn't have skin and bones as I do," Jesus said to the disciples.

When the disciples finally realized that it was really Jesus and not a ghost, Jesus began to teach them. He explained that He had to suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day to fulfill what was written about Him in the Scriptures. Then He told the disciples that they should spread His story to every nation of the world.



Wow! That's a big job, isn't it? The disciples were few, how could they take the story of Jesus to the whole world? Well, it is the same as it is with the dominoes. It starts with one person. One person tells another and he or she tells another, and another, and another until the whole world has heard that Jesus is risen from the dead and He is LORD.

Dear Father, help us to remember that we can help to spread the good news of Jesus to the whole world if "each one will reach one." In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Source: www.sermons4kids.com

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Our Lady of Fatima asked us to pray for the Pope. We must also pray for the Consecration of Russia to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart. The Fatima Centre invites everyone to join them in praying the powerful 54-day Rosary novena from May 1 to June 23 for this intention. Our Lady stood faithfully by the Cross of Her Son, radiating peace and trustful surrender to Divine Providence. Let us renew and intensify our commitment to live according to Her Fatima Message.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA'S PLAN TO DEFEAT THIS CORONAVIRUS

- 1 Stay in the State of Grace
- 2 Pray the Rosary Daily
- 3 Wear the Brown Scapular and Use Sacramentals
- 4 Pray and Sacrifice for Sinners (e.g., The First Saturday Devotion)
- 5 Pray for the Pope and the Consecration of Russia

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Three Novenas of Rosaries in Petition								
Day 1 J <input type="checkbox"/> Fri May 1	Day 2 S <input type="checkbox"/> Sat May 2	Day 3 G <input type="checkbox"/> Sun May 3	Day 4 J <input type="checkbox"/> Mon May 4	Day 5 S <input type="checkbox"/> Tue May 5	Day 6 G <input type="checkbox"/> Wed May 6	Day 7 J <input type="checkbox"/> Thur May 7	Day 8 S <input type="checkbox"/> Fri May 8	Day 9 G <input type="checkbox"/> Sat May 9
Day 10 J <input type="checkbox"/> Sun May 10	Day 11 S <input type="checkbox"/> Mon May 11	Day 12 G <input type="checkbox"/> Tue May 12	Day 13 J <input type="checkbox"/> Wed May 13	Day 14 S <input type="checkbox"/> Thur May 14	Day 15 G <input type="checkbox"/> Fri May 15	Day 16 J <input type="checkbox"/> Sat May 16	Day 17 S <input type="checkbox"/> Sun May 17	Day 18 G <input type="checkbox"/> Mon May 18
Day 19 J <input type="checkbox"/> Tue May 19	Day 20 S <input type="checkbox"/> Wed May 20	Day 21 G <input type="checkbox"/> Thur May 21	Day 22 J <input type="checkbox"/> Fri May 22	Day 23 S <input type="checkbox"/> Sat May 23	Day 24 G <input type="checkbox"/> Sun May 24	Day 25 J <input type="checkbox"/> Mon May 25	Day 26 S <input type="checkbox"/> Tue May 26	Day 27 G <input type="checkbox"/> Wed May 27
Three Novenas of Rosaries in Thanksgiving								
Day 28 J <input type="checkbox"/> Thur May 28	Day 29 S <input type="checkbox"/> Fri May 29	Day 30 G <input type="checkbox"/> Sat May 30	Day 31 J <input type="checkbox"/> Sun May 31	Day 32 S <input type="checkbox"/> Mon June 1	Day 33 G <input type="checkbox"/> Tue June 2	Day 34 J <input type="checkbox"/> Wed June 3	Day 35 S <input type="checkbox"/> Thur June 4	Day 36 G <input type="checkbox"/> Fri June 5
Day 37 J <input type="checkbox"/> Sat June 6	Day 38 S <input type="checkbox"/> Sun June 7	Day 39 G <input type="checkbox"/> Mon June 8	Day 40 J <input type="checkbox"/> Tue June 9	Day 41 S <input type="checkbox"/> Wed June 10	Day 42 G <input type="checkbox"/> Thur June 11	Day 43 J <input type="checkbox"/> Fri June 12	Day 44 S <input type="checkbox"/> Sat June 13	Day 45 G <input type="checkbox"/> Sun June 14
Day 46 J <input type="checkbox"/> Mon June 15	Day 47 S <input type="checkbox"/> Tue June 16	Day 48 G <input type="checkbox"/> Wed June 17	Day 49 J <input type="checkbox"/> Thur June 18	Day 50 S <input type="checkbox"/> Fri June 19	Day 51 G <input type="checkbox"/> Sat June 20	Day 52 J <input type="checkbox"/> Sun June 21	Day 53 S <input type="checkbox"/> Mon June 22	Day 54 G <input type="checkbox"/> Tue June 23



O Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, we beg thy intercession for the **Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary** by the Pope and all Catholic bishops of the world, in the manner requested by Our Lady of Fatima, which will end the chastisement of the coronavirus, prevent greater chastisements, and result in the conversion of Russia to the Catholic Faith and a period of world peace. We unite this Rosary with all the Rosaries offered for the same intention.

Visit www.fatima.org for more information.

DIVINE LITURGY PROPER FOR SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Fourth Sunday of Pascha

Paschal Troparion

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

First and Third Antiphons: Sunday (Resurrectional)

Troparion and Kontakion

Troparion, 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.

Kontakion, Tone 3: Lord, as of old You raised the Paralytic, lift my souls by Your divine presence, for by my many sins and foolish actions, I, too, am now afflicted and crippled. Raise me, that being saved I may cry to You: “Glory to Your power, O merciful Christ!”

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 8: Though You descended into a tomb, O Immortal One,* yet You destroyed the power of Hades,* and You rose as victor, O Christ God,* calling to the myrrh-bearing women: Rejoice!* and giving peace to Your Apostles:* You, who grant resurrection to the fallen.

Prokeimenon, Tone 1

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

verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; praise befits the righteous.

***Epistle:* Acts 9: 32-42**

Brothers and sisters! In those days, as Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the Lord’s people who lived in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years. “Aeneas,” Peter said to him, “Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat.” Immediately Aeneas got up. All those who lived in Lydda and the plain of Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

In Joppa, there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name means gazelle); she was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!” Peter went with them, and when he arrived, he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Gazelle had made while she was still with them.

Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

Alleluia verses

verse: Of Your mercies, O Lord, I will sing forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation.

verse: For You have said, “Mercy will be established forever.”

***Gospel:* John 5: 1-15**

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Bethesda, which has five porticoes. In these lay many disabled people — blind, lame, and paralyzed, waiting for the water to be moved. For an angel of the Lord descended at certain times into the pool; and the water was moved. And whoever went down first into the pond after that, was made whole, of whatsoever infirmity he lay under. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, “It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.” But he answered them, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your mat and walk.’” They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take it up and walk?’” Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.” The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

Hymn to the Mother of God

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! Exult now and be glad, O Sion! And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight in the resurrection of your Son.

Communion Hymn

Rejoice the body of Christ;* taste the fountain of immortality. Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.
Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

Instead of “Blessed is He Who comes...” and “We have seen the true light...” we sing: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

Instead of “May our mouths be filled...” and Blessed be the name of the Lord ...” we chant two times: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life, *and then we sing it once more.*

At the dismissal, instead of “Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.” we chant: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

After the final Amen, the priest, with cross raised on high, exclaims “Christ is risen” thrice and we respond “Indeed, He is risen” each time. Then, the Troparion “Christ is risen” is sung as at the beginning of the Liturgy, but with the addition: And to us He has granted life eternal,* we bow down before His resurrection on the third day.

+ +

PROPERs FOR WEDNESDAY OF MID-PENTECOST **Half-way mark between Easter and Pentecost**

Paschal Troparion

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

First and Third Antiphons: Sunday (Resurrectional)

Troparion and Kontakion:

Troparion, Tone 8: At the mid-point of the Feast, O Saviour, water my thirsty soul with streams of true godliness; for You cried out to all, “Let any who thirst, come to Me and drink.” O Source of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 4: At the mid-point of the feast according to the Law, Maker of all things and Master, You said to those present, O Christ God, “Come, and draw the water of immortality.” And so we fall before You crying out with faith, “Grant us Your mercies, for You are the source of our life.”

Prokeimenon, Tone 3

Great is our Lord and great is His strength, and of His knowledge there is no end.

verse: Praise the Lord, for a psalm is good; may praise be sweet to Him.

Epistle: Acts 14: 6-17

In those days the two apostles fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the area around them, and they went on preaching the Good News. And in Lystra there sat a certain man whose feet were crippled: he had been lame from his mother’s womb and never had been able to walk. He heard Paul speaking, and Paul, looking upon him and seeing he had enough faith to be healed, cried out in a loud voice, “Stand up on your feet!” And he sprang up and walked.

Then the crowd seeing what Paul had done, raised their voices and exclaimed in the Lycaonian dialect, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” And they called Barnabas ‘Jupiter’ and Paul ‘Mercury’ because he was the chief speaker. And the priest of the Jupiter [temple] that stood near their town brought oxen and garlands to the gateways, intending to offer a sacrifice together with the people.

But on hearing this, Barnabas and Paul, tearing their clothes, rushed into the crowd shouting, “Men, why are you doing this?” We too are mortals, men like you, bringing to you the Good News that you should turn away from these useless rites, toward the living God who made heaven and earth and the sea and everything in them: who in past generations let all nations go their own ways. And yet, he did not leave himself without testimony, doing good, sending you rains from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness.”

And even as they were saying this, they were hardly able to restrain the crowd from offering sacrifice to them.

Alleluia verses

Remember Your congregation which You acquired from the beginning.

But God is our king before the ages; He has wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

Gospel: John 7: 14-30

Around the middle of the festival Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. The Jews were astonished at it, saying, “How does this man have such learning, when he has never been taught?” Then Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine but His who sent me. Anyone who resolves to do the will of God will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own. Those who speak on their own seek their own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of Him who sent him is true, and there is nothing false in him.

(continued on next page)

“Did not Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why are you looking for an opportunity to kill me?” The crowd answered, “You have a demon! Who is trying to kill you?” Jesus answered them, “I performed one work, and all of you are astonished. Moses gave you circumcision (it is, of course, not from Moses, but from the patriarchs), and you circumcise a man on the sabbath. If a man receives circumcision on the sabbath in order that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because I healed a man’s whole body on the sabbath? Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”

Now some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, “Is not this the man whom they are trying to kill? And here he is, speaking openly, but they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Messiah? Yet we know where this man is from; but when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.” Then Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple, “You know me, and you know where I am from. I have not come on my own. But the One who sent me is true, and you do not know Him. I know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent me.” Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come.

Hymn to the Mother of God

Virginity is alien to mothers and childbearing is foreign to virgins; yet in you, O Mother of God, both of them came together. Therefore we and all the nations of the earth without ceasing magnify you.

Communion Hymn

“Those who eat My flesh and drink My blood* abide in Me and I in them,” says the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia!

“*Christ is risen*” is sung in the usual places.

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DIVINE LITURGY PROPER FOR SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN **Fifth Sunday of Pascha**

Paschal Troparion

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

Troparion and Kontakion

Troparion, 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!”

Troparion, Tone 8: At the mid-point of the Feast, O Saviour, water my thirsty soul with streams of true godliness; for You cried out to all, “Let any who thirst, come to Me and drink.” O Source of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion, Tone 8: Drawn to the well by faith, the Samaritan woman beheld You, the Water of wisdom, and drinking abundantly of You, she inherited the heavenly Kingdom for ever, becoming everlastingly glorious.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 4: At the mid-point of the feast according to the Law, Maker of all things and Master, You said to those present, O Christ God, “Come, and draw the water of immortality.” And so we fall before You crying out with faith, “Grant us Your mercies, for You are the source of our life.”

Prokeimenon, Tone 3

Sing to our God, sing; sing to our King, sing.

verse: Clap your hands, all you nations; shout unto God with the voice of joy.

Epistle: Acts 11: 19-30

Brothers and sisters! In those days, when the disciples were scattered because of the persecution that broken out over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word to no one except the Jews. But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Greeks also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called “Christians.”

At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a dire famine threatening the whole world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. And so, the disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

(Alleluia verses follow on next page)

Alleluia verses

verse: Poise yourself and advance in triumph and reign in the cause of truth, and meekness, and justice.

verse: You have loved justice and hated iniquity.

Gospel: John 4: 5-42

At that time, Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by His journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone to the city to buy provisions. The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" Recall that Jews did not share things in common with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered Him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to Him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Him, "I know that the Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am He, the One who is speaking to you."

Just then His disciples returned. They were astonished that He was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are You speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to Him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So, the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought Him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to complete His work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in Him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So, when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world."

Hymn to the Mother of God

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! Exult now and be glad, O Sion! And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight in the resurrection of your Son.

Communion Hymn

Rejoice the body of Christ;* taste the fountain of immortality. Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.
Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

Instead of "Blessed is He Who comes..." and "We have seen the true light..." we sing: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

Instead of "May our mouths be filled..." and "Blessed be the name of the Lord ..." we chant two times: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life, *and then we sing it once more.*

At the dismissal, instead of "Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen." we chant: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

After the final Amen, the priest, with cross raised on high, exclaims "Christ is risen" thrice and we respond "Indeed, He is risen" each time. Then, the Troparion "Christ is risen" is sung as at the beginning of the Liturgy, but with the addition: And to us He has granted life eternal; we bow down before His resurrection on the third day.*

