

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

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### GREAT VESPERS

#### KATHISMA READING

*Blessed is the man...* is sung.

#### AT PSALM 140

*In Tone 3*

10.

By Your Cross, O Christ our Saviour,  
the power of Death has been vanquished,  
and the deceit of the devil has been destroyed.  
Therefore, mankind, saved by faith,  
offers You hymns of praise forever.

9.

O Lord, all creation has been enlightened by Your Resurrection,  
and Paradise has been reopened;  
therefore, all creation extols You  
and offers You hymns of praise forever.

8.

I glorify the power of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
and I praise the dominion of the undivided Divinity,  
the consubstantial Trinity  
who reigns forever and ever.

7.

We adore Your precious Cross, O Christ,  
and with hymns of praise we glorify Your Resurrection;  
for by Your wounds we have all been healed.

6.

Let us sing the praises of the Saviour,  
who was incarnate of the Virgin;  
for He was crucified for our sake,  
and on the third day He arose from the dead,  
granting us His great mercy.

5.

Christ descended into Hades and announced to those confined there:  
Take courage, for today I have conquered Death.  
I am the Resurrection, the One who will set you free.  
I have shattered the gates of the realm of Death.

4.

O Christ our God, we unworthily stand in Your most pure temple  
and offer to You our evening hymns.

From the depths of our souls we cry out to You:

O Lover of Mankind, who has enlightened the world  
by Your Resurrection on the third day,  
deliver Your people from the hands of Your enemies.

*In Tone 1*

3.

O ineffable goodness who created the human form,  
You came to heal those who are ill.

O Christ, by Your word You raised the Paralytic at the Sheep Pool;  
You healed the suffering of the woman with the flow of blood;  
You showed mercy to the tormented daughter of the Canaanite woman;  
and You did not disdain the prayer of the centurion.

Because of this we cry out in praise:

O Almighty Lord, glory to You!

2.

O ineffable goodness who created the human form,  
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O Almighty Lord, glory to You!

1.

The Paralytic was like an unburied dead man,  
and when he saw You, O Lord, he cried out:  
Have mercy on me, for my bed has become my grave.  
Of what use is my life?

I have no need for the Sheep Pool,  
for there is none to put me into the water.

Therefore, I come to You, O Fountain of all healing,  
that with all I may cry to You:

O Lord Almighty, glory to You!

*In Tone 5, Glory...*

Jesus went up to Jerusalem to the Sheep Pool  
which in Hebrew was called Bethesda.

And there lay a great multitude of sick people in its five porticoes;  
for the angel of the Lord went down at certain times and stirred the water,  
granting healing to those who approach in faith.

The Lord saw there a man with a chronic illness,  
and He asked him: Do you want to be healed?

The sick man replied:

I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred.  
I have spent my money on physicians  
and received no help from anyone.  
The Physician of soul and body said to him:  
Take up your pallet and walk;  
proclaim to the whole world  
the greatness of My mercy and My mighty deeds.

*In Tone 3, Now...*

O Lady most honourable, how could we be rapt in wonder at your giving birth to the incarnate God who without a mother was born of a Father before all ages. You gave Him birth in the flesh without a father, without a man's instrumentality. He is God and man whose two natures are intact, neither one losing any of its properties. Therefore, O Virgin Mother, intercede with Him to save the souls of those who believe and profess in true faith that you are the Mother of God.

## **APOSTICHA**

*In Tone 3*

O Christ, who darkened the sun by Your passion  
and enlightened all creation by Your Resurrection,  
accept our evening prayer, for You love mankind.

*The Paschal Stichera are now sung in the customary manner:*

*Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered.*

Today a sacred Pascha is revealed to us: a new and holy Pascha; a mystical Pascha; a Pascha which is Christ the Redeemer; a blameless Pascha; a great Pascha; a Pascha of the faithful; a Pascha which has opened for us the gates of Paradise; a Pascha which sanctifies all the faithful.

*As smoke vanishes, let them vanish!*

Come from that scene O women bearers of glad tidings, and say to Zion: Receive from us the glad tidings of joy of Christ's Resurrection: Exult and be glad, and rejoice, O Jerusalem, seeing Christ the King who comes forth from the tomb like a Bridegroom in procession!

*So let sinners perish before the face of God, but let the righteous scatter rejoice!*

The myrrh-bearing women at the break of dawn drew near to the tomb of the Life Giver. There they found an angel sitting upon a stone, he greeted them, with these words: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? Why do you mourn in the incorrupt amid corruption? Go, proclaim the glad tidings to His disciples."

*This is the day which the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

Pascha of beauty! The Pascha of the Lord! Pascha! A Pascha worthy of all honour has dawned on us. Pascha! Let us embrace each other joyously! Pascha, ransom from affliction! For today as from a

bridal chamber Christ has shown forth from the Tomb, and filled the women with joy saying:  
"Proclaim the glad tidings to the Apostles!"

*In Tone 5, Samohlasnyj*

*Glory...*

On Solomon's porch, there lay many sick,  
and in the midst of the Feast, Christ found among them,  
a man who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years.  
To him He called out with a Master's voice:  
Do you wish to be made well?  
And the Paralytic man replied:  
Lord, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred.  
The Lord said to him: Take up your bed.  
Behold, you have become whole; do not sin again.  
Therefore, O Lord, by the prayers of the Theotokos,  
send down upon us Your great mercy.

*Now and forever and ever. Amen.*

This is the day of Resurrection, let us be illumined by the Feast! Let us embrace each other! Let us call "brothers and sisters" even those that hate us and forgive all by the Resurrection, and so let us cry:

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

## **TROPARIA**

*In 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... Now...*

We sing your praises, O Virgin;\* for, as the Mother of God, you always intercede for the salvation of the human race.\* It is from you that our God and your Son took flesh.\* Then, by suffering the passion on the Cross,\*\* and out of love for mankind, He delivered us from corruption.