

Russian Orthodox Church of the Resurrection of Christ

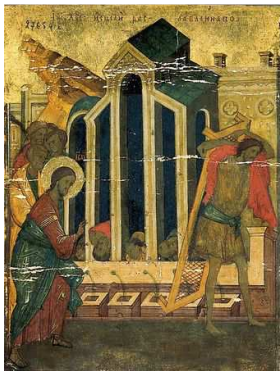
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Schedule for the Week of May 22 - 28, 2016

Sunday May 22	Sunday of the Paralytic / о расслабленном 8:15 AM Nocturns, Confessions 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Wednesday May 25	Mid-Pentecost 9:00 AM Service
Saturday May 28	5:30 PM Vigil
Sunday May 29	The Samaritan Woman / о самаряныне 8:15 AM Nocturns, Confessions 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy



“Есть же в Иерусалиме у Овечьих ворот купальня, называемая Вифезда, при которой было пять крытых ходов. В них лежало великое множество больных, слепых, хромых, иссохших, ожидающих движение воды, ибо Ангел Господень по

временам сходил в купальню и возмущал воду, и кто первый входил в нее по возмущении воды, тот выздоравливал, какою бы ни был одержим болезнью. Тут был человек, находившийся в болезни тридцать восемь лет. Иисус, увидев его лежащего и узнав, что он лежит уже долгое время, говорит ему: хочешь ли быть здоров? Больной отвечал Ему: так, Господи; но не имею человека, который опустил бы меня в купальню, когда возмутится вода; когда же я прихожу, другой уже сходит прежде меня. Иисус говорит ему: встань, возьми постель твою и ходи. И он тотчас выздоровел, и взял постель свою и пошел... Потом Иисус встретил его в храме и сказал ему: вот, ты выздоровел; не грши больше, чтобы не случилось с тобою чего хуже” (Ин. 5:2-9,14)

“Нам, которые расслабили и неподвижны ко всякому доброму делу, и не имеем человека, то есть смысла человеческого... чтобы он опустил нас в купель слезного покаяния, в которую кто войдет превым, тот получает исцеление. Ибо надеющийся на последнее время и отлагающий покаяние, и не спешащий покаяться здесь, но опаздывающий, не получает исцеления. Итак, стройся войти первым, чтобы смерть не захватила тебя. Сию купель покаяния возмущает Ангел. Какой! Ангел великого совета Отчего, Христос и Спаситель. Ибо если Божественное учение не коснется нашего сердца и не произведет в нем возмущения напоминанием о муках в будущем веке, то купель сия не будет действительна, и здоровья расслабленной душе не бывает. Справедливо она (купель) может быть названа овчею. Ибо в ней, как овцы, омываются внутренности и помыслы святых и незлобивых, уготовляющих себя в жертву живую и благоугодную Богу. О если бы и мы получили здоровье и по выздоровлении находились в храме, то есть не осквернились неосвященными помыслами, дабы не достигло нас худшее наказание в будущем” (Блаж. Феофилакт).

At the Sheep's Gate there was a pool, which was called Bethesda, which means “house of mercy,” or God's mercy: the water used to gather from a curative spring. According to the testimony of Evsevius (in the 5th century AD), the pool had 5 porches. This healing spring attracted many people with different ailments. However, this was no ordinary healing spring: it manifested its curative power only at times, when God's Angel descended and stirred up the water, and upon the water being stirred up, only the first person to immerse into the pool was cured; evidently, the water retained its healing properties for a short time only, thereafter, losing them.

Here, by the pool, lay a paralytic who had suffered for 38 years and who had almost lost all hopes of a cure. Particularly — as he explained to the Lord — not having an

assistant, he was incapable of utilizing the miraculous spring, as he didn't have the strength to move fast enough to immerse himself into the water, immediately after it was stirred. Taking pity, the Lord instantly cures the unfortunate with only His words: "Rise, take up your bed and walk." With this, the Lord showed through His saving grace, His superiority over the Old Testament methods.

However, as this was Saturday, the Jews, instead of being happy for the unfortunate individual that had suffered for so many years, or being amazed by the miracle, were annoyed because the former paralytic had the audacity to violate the tranquillity of the Sabbath, and rebuked him. However, the cured paralytic, not without some effrontery, began to justify himself, stating that he is only carrying out the wishes of Him, Who healed him and Who in his eyes, had sufficient authority to release him from conforming to the rather narrow-minded regulations regarding Saturday. With traces of contempt, the Jews inquired of the former paralytic as to Who was the Person, that had the audacity to permit him to violate a public regulation?

Soon afterward, he most probably went to the temple in order to bring a sacrifice, in gratitude for his healing. Here, the Lord met him with significant words: "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." From these words, it can be seen that sickness overtakes a person for his sins, and the Lord warns the cured paralytic against repeating the sins, so as not to be afflicted with a greater punishment. Recognizing his Healer, he went and told the Jews about Him: not with any evil intent, but just to raise the authority of Jesus Christ. This evoked a new rage of hatred in the Jews, and they "sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath." (*from Explanation of the Four Gospels by Abp. Averky*)

Rise and Make Your Bed

In the Epistle reading from Acts 9:32-42, we read about the healing of a man called Aeneas who had lain paralyzed for 8 years. Peter told him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed."

Let's hear these words. They hold an important lesson for our spiritual life. By accepting us as His adopted children in Jesus Our Lord (we are all His children by virtue of being created by Him as well), our Almighty Father gave us an extraordinary privilege. Jesus put it this way: "Whatever you ask in

My name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask anything in My name, I will do it." (*John 14:13-14*)

What a promise! Peter restored Aeneas' ability to walk and to make his own bed by using this treasure which we have all inherited from our Lord. And Jesus honored his faith with the healing that he requested. But He also asked something of Aeneas in return.

Peter and His Master, Jesus, asked Aeneas to do something to express his faith that he had received God's gift. Aeneas had to make his bed. Until that time he had not been able to. From now on everything would be different. He would do everything like that for himself. But he had to start right away.

Have we asked Jesus for something as well? It is quite possible that He has already given it to us! Let's act in faith. Let's proceed as though we already have what we asked for and see what happens. Let us not let our fear and our laziness keep us from enjoying the Lord's bounty. Let us rise up and make our own bed!

(Fr. Igor Kutash)

В среду 4й седмицы празднуется Преполовление Пятидесятницы, то есть половина времени от Пасхи до Пятидесятницы. В этот день воспоминается то событие из жизни Спасителя, когда Он в преполовление праздника Кушей учил в храме о Своем Божественном посланничестве и таинственной воде, под которой понимается благодатное учение Христово и благодатные дары Святого Духа. Преполовление св. Пятидесятницы относится к древним христианским праздникам. Еще Анатолий Константинопольский, св. Иоанн Дамаскин и прп. Феофан Исповедник воспели Преполовление в духовных песнях, которыми и теперь св. Церковь восхваляет Господа в этот праздник. Стоя между днем Пасхи и днем Сошествия Святого Духа, праздник Преполовления служит связью между этими великими христианскими торжествами: вместе с продолжающимся чествованием первого из них в Преполовлении напоминает о приближении праздника Сошествия Святого Духа, а также и праздника Вознесения Господня.