How tragic today’s story of the life of Christ is. A man had been paralyzed for years. He had lain at a short distance from healing, but he himself had no strength to merge into the waters of ablution. And no one in the course of all these years—had had compassion on him.

The ones rushed to be the first in order to be healed. Others who were attached to them by love, by friendship, helped them to be healed. But no one cast a glance at this man, who for years had longed for healing and was not in himself able to find strength to become whole.

If only one person had been there, if only one heart had responded with compassion, this man might have been whole years and years earlier. As no one, not one person, had compassion on him; all that was left to him—and I say all that was left to him with a sense of horror—was the direct intervention of God.

We are surrounded by people who are in need. It is not only people who are physically paralyzed who need help. There are so many people who are paralyzed in themselves, and need to meet someone who would help them. Paralyzed in themselves are those who are terrified of life, because life has been an object of terror for them since they were born: insensitive parents, heartless, brutal surroundings. How many are those who hoped, when they were still small, that there would be something for them in life. But no. There wasn’t. There was no compassion. There was no friendliness. There was nothing. And when they tried to receive comfort and support, they did not receive it. Whenever they thought they could do something they were told, “Don’t try. Don’t you understand that you are incapable of this?” And they felt lower and lower. How many were unable to fulfill their lives because they were physically ill, and not sufficiently strong... But did they find someone to give them a supporting hand? Did they find anyone who felt so deeply for them and about them that they went out of their way to help? And how many are there who are terrified of life, lived in circumstances of fear, of violence, of brutality... But all this could not have taken them if there had been someone who would have stood by them and not abandoned them.

So we are surrounded, all of us, by people who are in the situation of this paralytic man. If we think of ourselves we will see that many among us are paralyzed, incapable of fulfilling all their aspirations; incapable of being what they longed for, incapable of serving others the way their heart speaks; incapable of doing anything they longed for because fear and brokenness has come into them.

And all of us, all of us are responsible for each of them. We are responsible, mutually, for one another—because when we look right and left at the people who stand by us, what do we know about them? Do we know how broken they are? How much pain there is in their hearts? How much agony there has been in their lives? How many broken hopes, how much fear and rejection and contempt that has made them contemptuous of themselves and unable even to respect themselves—not to speak of having the courage of making a move towards wholeness, that wholeness of which the Gospel speaks in this passage and in so many other places?

Let us reflect on this. Let us look at each other and ask ourselves, “How much frailty is there in him or her? How much pain has accumulated in his or her heart? How much fear of life—but life expressed by my neighbor, the people on whom I should be able to count for life—has come in to my existence?

Let us look at one another with understanding, with attention. Christ is there. He can heal; yes. But we will be answerable for each other, because there are so many ways in which we should be the eyes of Christ who sees the needs, the ears of Christ who hears the cry, the hands of Christ who supports and heals or makes it possible for the person to be healed. Let us look at this parable of the paralytic with new eyes; not thinking of this poor man two thousand years ago who was so lucky that Christ happened to be near him and in the end did what every neighbor should have done. Let us look at each other and have compassion, active compassion, insight, and love if we can. And then this parable will not have been spoken or this event will not have been related to us in vain. Amen.
Ἐλεοδοκόν
Ἐν ἑκκλησίας εὐλογεῖτο τον Θεόν, Κύριον ἐκ πηγῶν Ἰσραήλ. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Ὕλον Θεοῦ, ὁ ἀνάστατε ἐκ νεκρῶν, ψάλλοντάς σοι, Ἀλληλουία.

Ὑχος β’.
Εὐφραίνεσθω τα ὦρανία, ἀγαλλιάσθω τα ἑπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησεν κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος· ἔπαθησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θανάτον· πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο· ἐκ κοιλίας ἄδου ἐφρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Ὑχος δ’
Τῶν ὦρανιών στρατίων Ἀρχιστράτηγοι, δυσποιοῦμεν ὡμᾶς ἡμεῖς οἱ ἀνάξιοι, ἵνα ταῖς ὑμῶν δεήσει, τείχισθε ἡμᾶς, σκέπη τῶν πετρῶν, τῆς ἁδου ὑμῶν δόξης, φιλορύθνες ἡμᾶς προσπιττάτων, ἐκτενῶς καὶ βωῦντας· ἐκ τῶν κινδύνων λυτρώσασθε ἡμᾶς, ὡς Ταξιάρχαι τῶν ἄνω Δυνάμεων.

Ὑχος πλ. δ’
Μνήσθητι Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθὸς τῶν δούλων σου, καὶ ὅσα ἐν βίῳ ἦμαρτον συγχωρήσω· οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀναμάρτητος, εἰ μὴ Σὺ ὁ δυνάμενος, καὶ τοῖς μετατάσσῃ δοῦναι τὴν ἀνάπαυσιν.

Ὑχος πλ. δ’.
Εἰ καὶ ἐν τάφῳ κατηθῆς Ἀδὰνατε, ἀλλ᾽ ὑπὸ τοῦ ἄδου καθέλες τὴν δύναμιν· καὶ ἀνέστης τῇ νυκτὶ, ἔρχετε, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀπόστολοις εἰρήνην δοξοῦμενος, ὦ τοὺς πεσόσα παρέχον ἀνάστασιν.

Πραξ 9:32 – 42
In those days, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus heals you; rise and make your bed.” And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, “Please come to us without delay.” So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all apart, and said, “Tabitha, rise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Entrance Hymn
Bless God in the churches, the Lord from the fountains of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia.

Mode 3
Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth rejoice exceedingly. For the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead. Out of the belly of Hades, He has rescued us, and to the world He has granted the great mercy.

Mode 4
O Chief Commanders of the heavenly armies, we the unworthy now entreat you in earnest, to fortify us by your supplications to the Lord, and shelter us beneath the wings of your spiritual glory, guarding us who run to you and fervently treat you: As the Commanders of the hosts on high, rescue us faithful from dangers of every kind.

Mode Plagal 4
Remember, Lord, as the Good One, your servants, and forgive them in whatever they have sinned in life. No one is without sin, except for you the Mighty One, and show rest to the departed.

Mode Plagal 4
Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out “Rejoice” to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection.

Acts 9:32 – 42
In those days, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus heals you; rise and make your bed.” And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, “Please come to us without delay.” So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all apart, and said, “Tabitha, rise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.
Τῷ καρώ ἐκείνῳ ἀνέβη ὁ Ιησοῦς εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα. ἦστι δὲ ἐν τοῖς Ἱεροσολυμίοις ἐπὶ τῇ προβατικῇ κολυμβήθρᾳ, ἡ ἐπελεγμένη Ἑβραϊστῇ Βηθεδά, πέντε στοιχεῖο ἀνέβησα. ἐν ταύτῃ κατέκειτο πλῆθος πολῶν τῶν ἁσθενοῦντων, τυφλῶν, χωλῶν, ἔρων, ἐκδεχομένων τῆς τοῦ ὀδύγου κίνησιν. Ἀγγέλος γὰρ κατὰ καρῷ κατέβαινεν ἐν τῇ κολυμβήθρᾳ, καὶ ἑταράσατο τὸ ὄψων πρῶτος ἐμῆς ματαὶ τῆς ταραχῆς τοῦ ὀδύγου ὑγίες ἐγένετο χρῖς ἄλλητα καταχέσει νοοῖσιν. ἦν δὲ τὶς ἀνθρώπως ἔκει τρίακοντα καὶ ὁκτὼ ἐξῆς ἐγένετο ἐν τῇ ασθενείᾳ αὐτοῦ. τούτων ὕπνο ὁ Ἱησοῦς κατακείμενον, καὶ γ νους ὅτι πολὺ ἤδη χρόνον ἐγένετος, λέγει αὐτῷ· θέλες ὑγίες γενέσθαι; ἀπεκρίθη αὐτῷ ὁ ἀσθενῶν· Κύριε, ἀνθρώπων οὐκ ἔχω, ἵνα ὅταν ταραχῆ τοῦ ὀδύγου, βάλῃ με εἰς τὴν κολυμβήθραν· ἐν ὑ ὁ ἐχρομαὶ ἐγὼ, ἄλλος πρὸ ἐμου καταβαίνει. λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ Ἱησοῦς· ἔγειρεν, ἄρον τὸν κράβαττόν σου καὶ περιπάτησε. καὶ εὐθείᾳ ἐγένετο νήματος τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, ὁ ἄρρωστος, καὶ ἤρε τὸν κράβαττόν αὐτοῦ καὶ περιπάτησε. ήν δὲ σάββατον ἐν ἑκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ. ἔγειρον οὖν οἱ ὦτα τῇ τὸν θαυματουργού, σάββατον σάββατον ἐστίν· οὐκ ἔζησεν σοι ὁ κράβαττον του· ἀπεκρίθη αὐτῷ· ὁ ποιήσας με υγίη, ἔκεινος μοι ἐπέβαινεν· ἄρον τὸν κράβαττόν σου καὶ περιπάτησε. ἤρθησαν οὖν αὐτῷ· τοῖς ἔστιν ὁ ἀνθρώπος ἐλπίζει σοι· ἄρον τὸν κράβαττόν σου καὶ περιπάτησε; ὁ δὲ ἱερεὺς οὐκ ἤδη τοῖς ἔστιν· ὁ γὰρ Ἱησοῦς ἐξελυσάμενον ὅχλος ὄντος ἐν τῷ τῶπῳ. μετὰ ταύτα εὐφράκη αὐτὸν ὁ Ἱησοῦς ἐν τῷ ἕρωτ καὶ ἐπέβαινεν αὐτῷ· ἢδε υγίης γέγονας· μηκέτι ἵρον σοί τι γένηται. ἀπῆλθεν ὁ ἀνθρώπος καὶ ἄνηγελε τοῖς ὦτα ταῖς ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ἔστιν ὁ ποιήσας αὐτὸν υγίη.
SYNAXARION

May 26th - St. Alexandros of Thessaloniki
May 27th - St. John the Russian of Evia
May 28th - St. Eutychius, Bishop of Melitene
May 29th - St. Theodosia of Tyre
May 30th - St. Emmelia, mother of St. Basil
May 31st - St. Hermias, Martyr at Comana
June 1st - St. Justin the Martyr

(The Church office will be closed Monday May 27th)

Today is the Sunday of the Paralytic

MEMORIALS

Ioanna Fountoulakis - 2 years
Angela (Angeliki) Morris - 10 years
Michael (Emmanuel) Morris - 28 years

and our AMC Veterans who have fallen asleep in the Lord:

Peter Cardasis
Dino Carr
George Christie
Andrew Cyprus
Alkiviadis Diakoumakis
Charles Kapotes, MD
George Kanakaris
Gus Keen
Chris Milonas
Stan Neamonitis
Nicholas C. Pappas
Nicos Stylianou
Anthony Vasilas
Michael Hatzidakis
George Scandalios
Harry Zuvekas

May their memory be eternal!

LITURGIES

Wednesday, May 29th
Mid Pentecost
Orthros & Liturgy 8:30 AM

Sunday, June 2nd
Sunday of Samaritan Woman
Orthros & Liturgy 8:00 AM

EVENTS

Greek School End of Year Celebration - May 28 & 29

Cub Scout Awards - June 2
following Divine Liturgy

AMC Panygiri - June 2

AHEPA Presentation - June 5

Golf Outing - June 6

Greek School Graduation - June 7

LIONS Graduation - June 10

Young at Heart - June 14