



Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

A parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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Rector: V. Rev. W. Sophrony Royer

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MAY 23, 2021 / 4TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA (TONE 3)

PASCHAL VERSES

Priest: Blessed is the kingdom ...

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (2½x)

Choir: And upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Great Litany

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION IN TONE THREE

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

KONTAKION FROM PENTECOSTARION IN TONE THREE

By Thy divine intercession, O Lord, / as Thou didst raise up the Paralytic of old, / so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts; / so that being saved I may sing to Thee: // “Glory to Thy power, O compassionate Christ!”

- *Do not sing the troparion of Apostles Peter and Paul*
- *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

PASCHAL KONTAKION IN TONE EIGHT

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, / Thou didst destroy the power of Hades. / In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, / proclaiming “Rejoice!” to the myrrh-bearing women; / granting peace to Thine apostles, // and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

PROKEIMENON IN TONE ONE

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee!

v. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (9:32-42)

In those days, Peter traveled everywhere, and on one occasion he went to visit God's people who lived in Lydda. There he met a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had not been able to get out of bed for eight years. “Aeneas,” Peter said to him, “Jesus Christ makes you well. Get up and make your bed.” At once Aeneas got up. All the people living in Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. In Joppa there was a

woman named Tabitha, who was a believer. (Her name in Greek is Dorcas, meaning “a deer.”) She spent all her time doing good and helping the poor. At that time she got sick and died. Her body was washed and laid in a room upstairs. Joppa was not very far from Lydda, and when the believers in Joppa heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him with the message, “Please hurry and come to us.” So Peter got ready and went with them. When he arrived, he was taken to the room upstairs, where all the widows crowded around him, crying and showing him all the shirts and coats that Dorcas had made while she was alive. Peter put them all out of the room, and knelt down and prayed; then he turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up!” She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. Peter reached over and helped her get up. Then he called all the believers, including the widows, and presented her alive to them. The news about this spread all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

ALLELUIA IN TONE FIVE

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

v. *I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation.*

v. *For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens.*

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (5:1-15)

Jesus went to Jerusalem for a religious festival. Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there is a pool with five porches; in Hebrew it is called Bethesda. A large crowd of sick people were lying on the porches—the blind, the lame, and the paralyzed. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. A man was there who had been sick for thirty-eight years. Jesus saw him lying there, and he knew that the man had been sick for such a long time; so he asked him, “Do you want to get well?” The sick man answered, “Sir, I don't have anyone here to put me in the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am trying to get in, somebody else gets there first.” Jesus said to him, “Get up, pick up your mat, and walk.” Immediately the man got well; he picked up his mat and started walking. The day this happened was a Sabbath, so the Jewish authorities told the man who had been healed, “This is a Sabbath, and it is against our Law for you to carry your mat.” He answered, “The man who made me well told me to pick up my mat and walk.” They asked him, “Who is the man who told you to do this?” But the man who had been healed did not know who Jesus was, for there was a crowd in that place, and Jesus had slipped away. Afterward, Jesus found him in the Temple and said, “Listen, you are well now; so stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” Then the man left and told the Jewish authorities that it was Jesus who had healed him.

FESTAL MEGALYNARION IN TONE FOUR

[Instead of “It is truly meet...,” we sing the following]

Refrain: The angel cried unto the Lady that is full of grace: / Rejoice, O pure Virgin! And again, I say, rejoice! / For thy Son is risen from the grave on the third day, // and has raised the dead, O ye people, be joyful!

Heirmos: Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, / for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; / dance now and be glad, O Zion, / and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, // in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear

COMMUNION HYMN

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

AT COMMUNION TO DISMISSAL

Priest: “In the fear of God...”

Choir: “Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord...”

Priest: "O God, save Thy people..." "

Choir: "Christ is risen from the dead... " (*sung once, instead of "We have seen the True Light..."*)

Priest: "Always, now and ever..." "

Choir: "Let our mouths be filled..." "

At the Dismissal, the Priest says: "Glory to Thee, O Christ..." and the choir sings "Christ is risen from the dead..." (thrice). Priest reads the Dismissal.

Priest: "Through the prayers..." "

Choir: And unto us He has given eternal life. Let us worship His Resurrection on the third day!

UPCOMING SERVICES

5:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers

9:20 AM (Sunday) – Third Hour & Divine Liturgy

TODAY'S SAINTS

Saints commemorated on May 16th: St. Michael the Confessor, Bishop of Synnada; St. Euphrosyne, Abbess of Polotsk; Holy Myrrh-bearer Mary, wife of Cleopas (sister-in-law of St. Joseph the Betrothed); St. Damiane, King of Georgia and Hymnographer; St. Euphebius, Bishop of Naples; Martyrs Donatian and Rogatian of Nantes; St. Mercurialis, Bishop of Forlì; St. Desiderius, Bishop of Langres; Martyrs Quintianus, Lucius, and Julianus, with 19 others in North Africa; St. Patricius, Bishop of Bayeux; St. Syagrius, Bishop of Nice; Hieromartyr Desiderius, Bishop of Vienne; Synaxis of the Saints of Rostov.

NO SUMMER SCHEDULE

Given that our church is air-conditioned, it is pointless to change the time of morning services during the summer months. Therefore, henceforth there will no longer be a summer schedule of services and morning services shall be at 9:30 AM throughout the entire year.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

Blessing of graves at area cemeteries this year shall be by appointment. Call the Rectory at 201-436-3244 to set up an appointment before Ascension Thursday.

**Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!
Христос воскрес! Вистину воскрес!**

"The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays."
— Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855)