

The Sunday of the Paralytic

John 5:1-15

After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. 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. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath. The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed. He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk. Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk? And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee. The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole. (KJV)

Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Hristos a inviat! Adevarat a inviat!

God's Holy Church continues to be filled with the joy of Jesus Christ's Resurrection. Resurrection joy is abundant in the Church and in believers' hearts.

Resurrection joy cannot be stifled. The Light of the Resurrected Christ is always preeminent. The Light of the Resurrected Christ is greater than any darkness.

The message that "Christ is Risen!" transforms the darkest moments in life. The Church wisely proclaims the Gospel message of the paralytic on this Sunday.

The paralytic suffered with his condition for thirty-eight years. One can only imagine what went through the paralytic's mind during those years, Jesus Christ entered the paralytic's life and healed him.

The healing of the paralytic is a symbol of hope for all people suffering for many years. Jesus Christ makes a difference when He fills the heart, mind and soul.

Jesus Christ renews believers that are suffering. When Christ fills the heart, mind and soul, the believer experiences new life. Jesus Christ brings joy to the most suffering heart, mind and soul.

Jesus Christ relieves believers of the paralysis of sin. Jesus Christ empowers believers. The soul of each person benefits from removal of the paralysis rooted in sin.

Jesus told the paralytic to sin no more. Jesus Christ strengthens believers to combat sin. Jesus Christ forgives repentant believers and enables those repenting to begin life anew.

Christ's Resurrection destroyed the power of death. Believers die to life when they sin. Believers live in Christ when they repent, unite and follow Christ.

Hope makes a difference in life. Hope motivates individuals to face life's challenges. The Resurrected Christ brings hope to all aspects of life. When sickness occurs, a job is lost or an accident happens, Christ offers hope.

Jesus' defeat of death demonstrates that all barriers in life can be overcome. Victory in all instances is to be interpreted and understood with God's illumination.

The paralytic probably had many dark thoughts during his thirty-eight years of suffering. Jesus proved there was good reason for the paralytic to continue to wait by the poolside.

Patience is necessary in life. Faith in the Lord God develops and strengthens patience. Jesus Christ does not disappoint those exercising patience and placing their faith in Him.

Thank God for the Church proclaiming the Gospel message of the healing of the paralytic. Thank God for the faithful through the centuries keeping our churches open and advancing the Gospel to different parts of the world.

The healing of the paralytic has touched lives on all the continents. People of different nations and backgrounds have benefitted from the paralytic's healing.

The Church will continue to celebrate Resurrection joy until the Feast of the Ascension. Joy is continually present in the Church throughout the year. Joy emanates from Jesus Christ. Hristos Voskrese! Christ is Risen!

The Sunday of the Paralytic. April 10/May 3, 2026. Venerable Theodore Trichinas. Venerable Joasaph. St. Nicholai of Zhicha.

Father Rodney Torbic