

Russian Orthodox Church of the Resurrection of Christ

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Schedule for the Week of April 25 – May 1, 2010

Sunday Apr 25	Sunday of the Paralytic Нед. о расслабленном
Tuesday Apr 27	Vigil for Mid-Pentecost 6:30 PM
Wednesday Apr 28	Mid-Pentecost Преполование Пятидесятницы 9 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия
Saturday May 1	5:30 PM Vigil
Sunday May 2	Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Нед. о Самарыныне 8:30 AM Confessions, Nocturns 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия

Неделя о Расслабленном

“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 первым, тот получает исцеление. Ибо надеющийся на последнее время и отлагающий покаяние, и не спешащий покаяться здесь, но опаздывающий, не получает исцеления. Итак, страйся войти первым, чтобы смерть не захватила тебя. Сию купель покаяния восмущает 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 постигло нас худшее наказание и в будущем”
(Блаж. Феофилакт)

Symbolizing through the healing of the paralytic the beginning of the Gospel harvest, and bringing a true gift to the Father on the holy day of Pentecost, Christ made the former paralytic a communicant in the great feast. Instead of lying on the bed of sickness, the healed man was able to go to the House of God with offerings and praises (John 5:14); and, having found the Son in the Father’s house (*cf.* Luke 2:49), he realized that his healing had been spiritual even more than it was physical. “See, you are well!”—says Christ, “Sin no more” (John 5:14), in other words, live righteously. “I cleansed you from stain, I healed you from sin, I made you whiter than snow, and led you into the House of God — live the life for which you have been created: live righteously, keep your baptismal garment clean and undefiled..

Just like the paralytic, all of humanity lay in paralysis, having been struck by the illness of the original sin. For long millennia, we tried to find a cure, but could not reach God on our own, nor was there anyone to help us. And yet, we did not lose hope, we kept waiting on God’s mercy and finally received the Divine visitation.

Through His Paschal resurrection, Christ opened the way to the life-giving font to everyone who thirsts. The way to healing from spiritual blindness, affliction and paralysis is open to everyone, who answers “It is so, Lord!” to God’s question “Do you want to be healed?”

Gathering into God’s storehouses the gracious harvest of souls healed from the deadly illness of sin, Christ on the day of Pentecost gave to Christians the power to win over sin, to fight it and win. The Father sent His Spirit, the Comforter, Who gives us life and strengthens us. Founding His Church, Christ strengthened her with His Power, His Spirit, and gave her the commandment to live a pure life.

Meeting every one of us today in the temple of God, Christ speaks to us with the words of the Holy Scripture, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you” (John 5:14). Keep your baptismal garment undefiled, recall and fulfill the oath taken at your baptismal font, in order that your soul not perish. Rise up from the paralysis of sin, open your eyes blinded by passions, and go to the house of God, praising the One Who saved you.

(*excerpted. See entire article at:*
<http://frsergei.wordpress.com/2010/04/24/do-you-want-to-be-made-well/#more-416>)