

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley
a Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406 **stmichaelvannuys.org**

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The Fourth Sunday of Pascha

Commemoration of the Paralytic

Hieromartyr Mokios, priest in Macedonia;

Cyril and Methodios, Equals-to-the-Apostles and Enlighteners of the Slavs

Sunday, May 11, 2025

Tone 3; Eothinon 5

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and became the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Apolytikion for our Patron, Michael the Archangel (Tone 2)

O ye foremost of the heavenly hosts, we beseech thee, though we are unworthy, pray that we may be encompassed with a shadow of thine unearthly glory; preserving us who kneel and cry endlessly: Deliver us from oppression since ye are the prince of the highest powers.

Kontakion of Pascha (Tone 8)

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Fourth Sunday of Pascha)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises. Clap your hands, all you nations.

The Reading from the Acts of the Saintly and Pure Apostles (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 Christ 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 outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he 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.

THE GOSPEL (for the Fourth Sunday of Pascha)

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

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethsaida, which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first, after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for 38 years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk'?" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are

well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befalls you.” The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus Who had healed him.

The Synaxarion

On May 11 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Hieromartyr Mokios, priest in Macedonia; and Cyril and Methodios, equals-to-the-Apostles and enlighteners of the Slavs.

On this day, the fourth Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the Paralytic and, as is right, we celebrate the miracle wrought for him.

Verses

The word of Christ was strength for the paralytic;
So that this word alone was the man’s full healing.

Jesus healed the Paralytic at the Sheep’s Pool, located near the Sheep’s Gate of Jerusalem, where people sacrificed their beasts and washed their insides. The pool had five sides, with a porch and arch on each. A number of people, afflicted with various diseases, passed through them, waiting at the water for an angel to come down and stir it. Once it moved, whoever stepped into the water first was instantly healed. One poor man, whose story is recounted in today’s Gospel lection in the Divine Liturgy, waited 38 years for someone to lower him into the water, because he was unable to move into the water himself. However, the Savior merely commanded the man to get up and walk, and he was healed.

In Thine infinite mercy, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

OFFERINGS

Special offerings and requests for prayer are being made . . .

For all our dear Mothers — whether they are grandmothers, sisters, aunts, cousins, and especially Godmothers too; we beseech God’s infinite blessings upon you with gratitude for all you do (Mae Tortolano)

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, Don Saba (+5 May, 2025), beloved husband of Diane Saba and father of Ryan and Jarred Saba and their family. Memory eternal.

[Funeral Schedule: Funeral Service, Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at St. Michael Church followed by the Graveside Trisagion at Forest Lawn (Glendale) at 1 p.m.]

by Ned Toomey the continued health of his daughter, Danielle Contes by Mae Tortolano for her cherished Goddaughter, Dr. Cindy Alberts and her husband John Carson, Esq. on their 42nd anniversary of marriage (May 14). May God grant them many years!

for many more years of birthdays blessed with good health and happiness for Tony Tortolano, Shi-Ann Palomino and Corina Placensia
by Mae Tortolano

May it be God's will to grant Ryan Tortolano the healing of body and strength of mind and soul (by Mae Tortolano).

for healing prayers for Ramez Hage for speedy recovery from surgery.
for the successful upcoming surgery of Father Minas Sarchizian.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

NOTE: There is **no** fasting for the forty-day period:
from Easter to the Feast of the Ascension (May 29th)

Memorial Day Services at Three Area Cemeteries

Monday, May 26, 10 a.m. at St. Nicholas Memorial Gardens
(Valhalla Cemetery; No. Hollywood)

'Ain Arab — Forest Lawn Memorial Park (Glendale) 11:30 a.m.
Douma Section — Forest Lawn Memorial Park (No. Hollywood) 1 p.m.

Mid-Pentecost — Wednesday, May 14th

The Fifth Sunday of Pascha (Samaritan Woman)

Great Vespers — Saturday, May 17th, 5 p.m.

Orthros — Sunday, May 18th, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bookstore is open today! St. Barbara honey is now in stock!

Next Weekly Bible Study Tuesday, May 20th

There is no Bible Study this week in Father Timothy's absence. Join us on Tuesday, May 20th, at 7 p.m. for our next weekly Bible Study. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out on Tuesday. The one hour study is recorded and available by request.



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16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622

His Eminence, Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York and all No. America

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig, Pastor
frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

Church Telephone: 818/994-2313
www.stmichaelvannuys.org

May 11, 2025

Beloved in Christ,

Christ is risen! *الْمَسِيحُ قَامَ!* Χριστος ανέστη! Христос Воскресе! Cristo ha resucitado! Hristos a înviat!

If you plan to attend this year's Parish Life Conference, now is the time to complete your plans for your participation. This year's Conference is hosted by the St. Nicholas Church (San Francisco, California); June 25 to June 29, 2025 at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport.

For your convenience, here are the Conference links:

Hotel Reservations: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/SFOBU/G-AO21>

On-line Registration: <https://www.antiochianevents.org/events/diocese-of-los-angeles-and-the-west-4/>

Conference Schedule: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/65e13b4843657b233db8c744/t/67ee1d2a6aef791251355b07/1743658282976/PLC+Schedule.xlsx++July+Schedule+%2810%29.pdf>

May you and your family members enjoy a safe and healthy summer.

Father Timothy Baclig

Pastor

At the end of the Liturgy the following dialogue is said between the priest and the faithful:

Priest: Christ is risen!

People: Truly, He is risen! [repeated in various languages]

Al Maseeh qam! **Haq qan qam!** (Arabic)

Christos Anesti! **Alithos Anesti!** (Greek)

Kristos voskrese! **Voistinu voskrese!** (Slavonic)

Kristo esta ressusitado! **Verdaderamente ressusitado!** (Spanish)

Khristi ungal! **Vertet ungal!** (Albanian)

Le Christ est ressuscite! **En verite il est ressuscite** (French)

Kristos Inviat! **Adervaret inviat!** (Romanian)

Ua ala hou 'o Kristo! **Ua ala 'I 'o no 'oia!** (Hawaiian)

Christus is opgestaan! **Hij is waarlijk opgestaan!** (Dutch)

Kristus ist Auferstanden! **Sicherlich ist Auferstanden!** (German)

Khristus Zmartvikstau! **Zaiste Zmartvikstau!** (Polish)

Christos harjav i merelotz! **Orhniale harutjun Christosi!** (*Armenian*)

Kristos Tensiah! **Be-a-man Ten-si-a!** (*Tigrigna*)

Massih Miyayat! **Hatman Miyayat** (*Farsi*)

Kristo azukidde! **Kituufu azukidde** (*Luganda*)

Ha Mashiyach qam! **Ken hoo qam!** (*Hebrew*)

Yeshu Christo Wierthayairnaytoo! **Sathamyeetoom Yeshu Christo wierthayairnaytoo!**
(*Malayalam*)

Mesiah jee utha hei! **Such mei jee mutha hei!** (*Hindu*)

Kristo samawa, yomi gaimashta! **Hontoni yomi gaimashta!** (*Japanese*)

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by Death, and upon those in the tombs... **People: Bestowing life!**



Article by Metropolitan SABA (in English and Arabic)

View the message from Metropolitan SABA here, available in English and Arabic: "On the Interpretation of the Bible; Part Two:" <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2422>

A very important message on: "The Chalcedonian and Non-Chalcedonian (Armenian, Coptic, Syrian, Ethiopian) Churches: An Objective Presentation" may be found here: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2407>

Note to Coffee Hour hosts: coffee and paper goods will be provided each week.

Holy Bread Offering List

May 18 - open

May 25 - open

May 29 - (Feast of the Ascension) open

Jun 01 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Please contact Father Timothy (818/219-3761; frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread or to host the Coffee Hour.

ST. MICHAEL GOLF CLASSIC

MONDAY

JUNE 2, 2025

WOOD RANCH GOLF CLUB

GOLF OR DINNER
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Don Meena (661) 623-0340

Fred Milkie (818) 535-4243

Golf Classic Holy Sponsorship Deadline: May 25th

We are excited to host **The 32nd Annual St. Michael Church Golf Classic** at the Wood Ranch Golf Club in Moorpark, CA, on Monday June 2nd. Many of us are looking forward to a round of golf, then joining many more of our family and friends for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Thanks to all of our 40 golf hole sponsors last year. Your generous support made it possible for St. Michael to continue serving the spiritual needs of our faithful and do the important work of our ministries. Your contributions to this event made a big difference.

Our church is growing and we need even more support to continue meeting the needs of our parish and community. Our goal this year is to increase hole sponsorships to 50.

Can we count on your support this year?

Click here to purchase your Golf Classic Hole Sponsorship online or contact Michael Mitchell at mgmitchell3@gmail.com, cell: 661-678-5583 to let him know that you would like to donate.

To give us time to make all the sponsorship signs, please donate your hole sponsorship by Sunday, May 25.

For more information you may contact the event Co-Chairs: Don Meena (donmeena@sbcglobal.net) or Fred Milkie, Jr (milkief@aol.com)



DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES & THE WEST

PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE

JUNE 25 - 29, 2025

HOSTED BY:

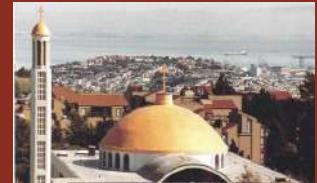
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- His Grace Bishop ANTHONY's first PLC as our Diocesan Bishop
- Morning & Afternoon Workshops
- Young Adult Dinner
- Taco Thursday Welcome Reception
- Organization Meetings
- Bible Bowl
- Ice Cream Social & Teen Dance
- Brunch with Bishop ANTHONY and Awards Presentation
- Oratorical & Choir Festival
- Middle Eastern Dinner and Dance (Hafla)

HOTEL:

- Hotel Group Rate: \$179/night plus local taxes/fees
- Group rate available 3 days before/after Conference
- Complimentary shuttle to & from San Francisco airport
- 10% discount at all hotel food outlets



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Annual Parish Life Conference

Host: St. Nicholas Church; San Francisco, California, June 25-29 2025

Go to: <https://www.antiochianevents.com/los-angeles> to register for your hotel room (\$179/night) at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport.

57th Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese Convention in Chicago

Host: St. George Church; Cicero, Illinois; July 20-27, 2025

Go to: <https://www.ac2025chicago.org/hotel/> to register for your hotel room (\$189/night) at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Chicago. For a view of the Convention Schedule, click here: <https://www.ac2025chicago.org/schedule/>



Aloha!

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FATHER TIMOTHY

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Pastor's Sermon
By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
May 11, 2025

Next Wednesday (May 14th) is the Feast of Mid-Pentecost, or the half-way point of the fifty-day period between Easter and Pentecost. The Gospel lessons of the Sunday just prior to Mid-Pentecost and those that follow all include something in common. In each of these Gospel lessons water is included and is a significant element of the healing which took place in each of the lessons. Today's Gospel lesson is of the healing of the paralytic in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate pool (Bethesda). Although the man never entered the pool, known for its miraculous healing power, the man who was paralyzed responded to Jesus' instruction to pick up his bed and walk.

In one of the hymns today we hear: *Lord, it was not the pool that healed the paralytic, but Your word. The power of Your voice was stronger than the chronic bond of the disease. Therefore he cast away the burden of sickness and took up his bed as a witness to Your abundant mercies...*

Today's Epistle lesson also describes the healings that began to take place after Christ's Resurrection when Peter, the Apostle, visited a paralyzed man named Aeneas. Peter's words were "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; arise and make your bed." We are told that the man rose immediately.

To properly understand Sacramental power, such as the power of God's healing, is to recognize the power of God's word; also that it is Christ who heals. God's word accompanies the tangible and material substances, whether it is water, oil, bread, or wine. They become a "point of contact," a means of communion with God, but not as an end in themselves.

For the woman with the hemorrhage whom the Lord healed, it was simply reaching out to touch the hem of our Lord's garment, for the Roman centurion with a dying son, a man who knew what it was to be one under authority; it was calling upon the Lord to say the word.

And so, for each of us, there is a point of contact: sometimes a situation or an important object (but not an idol), perhaps a person, a certain place that becomes for us a means (but not the location itself), but a means by which we

experience or begin a process of healing. Sometimes, it may even require us to do something which is not easy: returning to a difficult memory, learning to forgive someone, going back to a certain place, overcoming a fear, facing a person, rediscovering peace.

Whatever it is, healing is not always instantaneous. It may take time or even require you and me to do something that may be difficult and challenging. It may even sometimes require us to begin doing something differently. And the older we get, the harder it could be! Why, because we like being comfortable. We find it easier to be at ease with what we are familiar with, even though sometimes, we know, it may not be what is best for us.

Having completed the course of Great Lent and Holy Week, the season of Pascha provides us with the opportunity to break through any of the walls and barriers, ways of thinking and behavior in our life that cause us to be spiritually and sometimes physically paralyzed. It also requires the acceptance of responsibility; discovering what is our job to do – not as a chore, but as a labor of love and a ministry; a work that has meaning in joyful service.

For all of us, sometimes it takes as much effort and open-mindedness after Great Lent as it did during Great Lent for us to rid ourselves of our mindset, even our prejudices. It begins with hearing what Christ is saying to us – and really has been saying for a long time: “Take up your bed and walk!”

From today’s lesson we are able to see clearly how our relationship with God involves knowing or discovering what we must begin to do for ourselves. Recognizing that there are certain things that no one else can accomplish for us (not even God!). It also pertains to the importance of our personal response to God’s word. It pertains to knowing what we must do upon hearing and learning His message and instruction; His wisdom. **Yes, doing what sometimes seems even impossible. Yes, doing even what we might think we cannot do.** And yes, doing perhaps something that **WE DO NOT WANT TO DO!** The paralytic in today’s lesson was filled with excuses. **He had a chronic sickness that was spiritually affecting his physical well being.**

In the Vesperal hymn we hear his chronic condition described in this way: *The paralytic, who was like unto a dead man unburied, having seen Thee, O Lord, cried*

out, and “Have mercy upon me; for my bed hath become my grave. Of what use is my life? I have no need for the sheep’s pool; for there is none to put me into the pool. How is it that I come to Thee, O Fountain of all healing, that with all I may cry unto Thee, “Lord Almighty, glory to Thee!”

And so, on this, the fourth Sunday of Pascha, the Gospel lesson helps to see how our life in Christ (here and now) is to be a life illumined by the Resurrection. Our celebration of Christ’s victory over sin and death is not only about those who have died in Christ. **The full experience of resurrected life is not only for those who are dead in Christ. You and I today must be a participant in what we proclaim in all that Christ has accomplished: For we are among those who have been baptized into Christ’s Death and raised by His Resurrection. You and I are to live each day of our lives in that victory of what He has accomplished for us.**

We hear in the third ode of the Paschal canon: *Yesterday I was buried with Thee, O Christ, and today I rise with Thine arising. Yesterday I was crucified with Thee; do Thou Thyself glorify me with Thee, O Savior, in Thy Kingdom!*

Prayer

We thank Thee, O Christ our God for your word that renews us today. Like the Paralytic, may we put aside our excuses and faithfully respond to your word to us. Help us to look beyond what we perceive as our limitations, to act in faith, hope and love. Strengthen us in our time of weakness and despair and help us as we take up our mats to walk. As we turn to you may we also be a help and comfort to those who need us. Keep us strong. Grant us courage. And fill our lives with your peace. For you are the Lord of mercy and of love toward mankind and unto you do we ascribe glory together with Thy Father who is from everlasting and Thine all-holy good and Life-giving Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. A-men.

EOTHINON 5
الإثنين 5

TONE 3
الحن 3

FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA COMMEMORATION OF THE PARALYTIC

Hieromartyr Mokios, priest in Macedonia;
Cyril and Methodios, Equals-to-the-Apostles and Enlighteners of the Slavs

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الثالث

لتفرح السماويات وتبتهج الأرضيات، لأنَّ الربَ صنعَ عزًّا بساعِده، ووطَّ الموتَ بالموتِ، وصارَ بكرَ الامواتِ، وأنقذنا من جوفِ الجحيمِ، ومنعَ العالمَ الرحمةَ العظمى.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة بالحن الرابع

أيها المتقمونَ على الأجناد السماويين، نتوسلُ إليكم نحنُ غير المستحقينِ، حتىَ أنكم بطلباتِكم تكتنوفوننا بظلِّ أجنحةِ مجدكم غيرِ الهيولي، حافظينَ إيانا نحنُ الجاثينَ والصارخينَ بغيرِ فتورِ، أنقذونا منَ الشدائِد، بما أنكم رؤساءُ مراتبِ القواتِ العلويةِ.

قداق القيامة على اللحن الثامن

ولن ننزلَ إلى القبرِ يا من لا يموت، إلا أنك درستَ قوةَ الجحيمِ، وقمتَ غالباً، أيها المسيحُ الإلهِ. وللنسمةِ الحاملاتِ الطيبِ قلتَ افرحنَ واهباً لرسالتكِ السلامَ يا مانحِ الواقعينِ القيامِ.

الرسالة

(الأحد المُخلَّع)

رَتَّلُوا لِأَهْنَا رَتَّلُوا. يَا جَمِيعَ الْأَمْمِ صَفَّقُوا بِالْأَيَادِي.
فَصَلَّ مِنْ أَعْمَالِ الرُّسُلِ الْقَدِيسِينَ الْأَطْهَارِ.

(9:42-32)

في تلك الأيامِ، فيما كانَ بُطْرُسُ يَطْوُفُ في جميعِ الأماكنِ، نَزَّلَ أَيْضًا إلى الْقَدِيسِينَ الساكنينَ في لَدَّهُ. فَوَجَدَ هُنَاكَ إِنْسَانًا اسْمُهُ أَيْنِيَاسَ، مُضْطَجِعًا عَلَى سَرِيرٍ مِنْ ثَمَانِي سِنِينَ، وَهُوَ مُخْلَعٌ. فَقَالَ لَهُ بُطْرُسُ: "يَا أَيْنِيَاسُ، يَشْفِيكَ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ؛ قُمْ وَافْتَرِشْ لِنَفْسِكَ." فَقَامَ لِلوقتِ. وَرَأَهُ جَمِيعُ الساكنِينَ في لَدَّهُ وَسَارُونَ فَرَجَعُوا إِلَى الرَّبِّ. وَكَانَتْ فِي يَا فَا تَلْمِيَّةُ اسْمُهَا طَابِيتَا، الَّذِي تَقْسِيرُهُ ظَبَيَّةٌ، وَكَانَتْ هَذِهِ مُمْتَلَّةً أَعْمَالًا صَالِحةً وَصَدَقَاتٍ كَانَتْ تَعْمَلُهَا. فَحَدَثَتْ فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ أَنَّهَا مَرَضَتْ وَمَاتَتْ. فَغَسَّلُوهَا وَوَضَعُوهَا فِي الْعُلَيَّةِ. وَإِذْ كَانَتْ لَدَّهُ يَقُرُّ يَا فَا، وَسَمِعَ الْتَّالِمِيْدُ أَنَّ بُطْرُسَ فِيهَا، أَرْسَلُوا إِلَيْهِ رَجُلَيْنَ يَسَّالَاهُ أَنْ لَا يُبْطِئَ عَنِ الْقُدُومِ إِلَيْهِمْ. فَقَامَ بُطْرُسُ وَأَتَى مَعَهُمَا. فَلَمَّا وَصَلَ، صَعَدُوا إِلَيْهِ إِلَى الْعُلَيَّةِ، وَوَقَفَ لَدَيْهِ جَمِيعُ الْأَرَامِلِ يَبْكِيْنَ، وَيُرِينَهُ أَقْمَصَةً وَثِيَابًا كَانَتْ تَصْنَعُهَا ظَبَيَّةً مَعَهُنَّ. فَأَخْرَجَ بُطْرُسُ الْجَمِيعَ خَارِجًا، وَجَثَّا عَلَى رُكْبَتِيهِ وَصَلَّى. ثُمَّ التَّفَتَ إِلَى الْجَسَدِ وَقَالَ: "يَا طَابِيتَا قُومِيْ". فَفَتَّحَتْ عَيْنِيَها. وَلَمَّا أَبْصَرَتْ بُطْرُسَ جَلَسَتْ. فَنَأَوَلَهَا يَدَهُ

وَلِئَلَّهُبَّهَا. ثُمَّ دَعَا الْقَدِيسِينَ وَالْأَرَامِلَ، وَأَقَامَهَا لَدِيهِمْ حَيَّةً. فَشَاعَ هَذَا الْخَبَرُ فِي يَافَا
كُلُّهَا، فَأَمَّنَ كَثِيرُونَ بِالرَّبِّ.

الإنجيل

(الأحد المُخلَّع)

فصلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بِشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ يُوحَنَّا الْإِنْجِيلِيُّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالْتَّلَمِيذِ الْطَّاهِرِ. (15:5-1)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، صَدَعَ يَسُوعُ إِلَى أُورْشَلِيمَ. وَإِنَّ فِي أُورْشَلِيمَ عِنْدَ بَابِ الْغَنَمِ بِرَكَةً،
تُسَمَّى بِالْعِبْرَانِيَّةِ بَيْتَ حِسْدَا، لَهَا خَمْسَةُ أَرْوَقَةٍ. كَانَ مُضْطَحِعًا فِيهَا جُمْهُورٌ كَثِيرٌ مِنْ
الْمَرْضِيِّينَ مِنْ عُمَيَّانَ وَعُرْجَ وَيَابِسِيِّ الْأَغْضَاءِ، يَنْتَظِرُونَ تَحْرِيكَ الْمَاءِ. لَأَنَّ مَلَاكًا كَانَ يَنْزِلُ
أَحْيَانًا فِي الْبِرَكَةِ وَيُحَرِّكُ الْمَاءَ. وَالذِّي كَانَ يَنْزِلُ أَوْلَأَ مِنْ بَعْدِ تَحْرِيكِ الْمَاءِ، كَانَ يُبَرِّأ مِنْ أَيِّ
مَرَضٍ أَعْتَرَاهُ. وَكَانَ هُنَاكَ إِنْسَانٌ يَهُ مَرَضٌ مُنْذُ ثَمَانِ وَثَلَاثِينَ سَنَةً. هَذَا إِذْ رَأَهُ يَسُوعُ
مُلْقِيًّا، وَعْلَمَ أَنَّ لَهُ زَمَانًا كَثِيرًا، قَالَ لَهُ: "أَتَرِيدُ أَنْ تَبَرَّأَ؟" فَأَجَابَهُ الْمَرِيضُ: "يَا سَيِّدُ، لَيْسَ
لِي إِنْسَانٌ مَتَى حُرِّكَ الْمَاءُ يُلْقِينِي فِي الْبِرَكَةِ، بَلْ بَيْنَمَا أَكُونُ آتِيًّا، يَنْزُلُ قَبْلِي أَخْرَ." فَقَالَ
لَهُ يَسُوعُ: "قُمْ، احْمِلْ سَرِيرَكَ وَامْشِ." فَلَلَّوْقَتْ بِرَئِيْ الرَّجُلِ، وَحَمِلَ سَرِيرَهُ وَمَشَيْ. وَكَانَ
فِي ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ سَبْتُ. فَقَالَ الْيَهُودُ لِلَّذِي شَفَى: "إِنَّهُ سَبْتٌ، فَلَا يَحْلِلُ لَكَ أَنْ تَحْمِلَ السَّرِيرَ."
فَأَجَابَهُمْ: "إِنَّ الَّذِي أَبْرَأَنِي هُوَ قَالَ لِي "اَحْمِلْ سَرِيرَكَ وَامْشِ." فَسَأَلُوهُ مَنْ هُوَ الْإِنْسَانُ
الَّذِي قَالَ لَكَ "اَحْمِلْ سَرِيرَكَ وَامْشِ؟" أَمَا الَّذِي شَفَى فَلَمْ يَكُنْ يَعْلَمُ مَنْ هُوَ. لَأَنَّ يَسُوعَ
أَعْتَزَلَ، إِذْ كَانَ فِي الْمَوْضِعِ جَمْعٌ. وَبَعْدَ ذَلِكَ وَجَدَهُ يَسُوعَ فِي الْهِيَكَلِ، فَقَالَ لَهُ: "هَا قَدْ
عُوْفِيْتَ، فَلَا تَعْدُ تُخْطِيْلَ لِئَلَّا يُصِيبُكَ أَشَرُّ." فَذَهَبَ ذَلِكَ إِنْسَانُ، وَأَخْبَرَ الْيَهُودَ أَنَّ يَسُوعَ
هُوَ الَّذِي أَبْرَأَهُ.