



ST. THOMAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

1201 N. Llano Street
Fredericksburg, Texas

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Sunday, May 3, 2026

TROPARION OF ST. THOMAS

Thou wast a disciple of Christ and a member of the divine choir of Apostles, by thine unbelief thou didst make known Christ's Resurrection, and by touch thou wast assured of His holy Passion, O all-glorious Thomas, and now pray that we be granted peace and great mercy.

MEGALYNARION OF ST. THOMAS

Doubting, thou did come forth to touch His side; yet the resurrection was confirmed by thine unbelief. Henceforth, all have been taught by thee to serve Christ, O Thomas, who did end thy course well by holy martyrdom.

*Antiochian Diocese of
Wichita and Mid-America*

Primate
His Beatitude, the Patriarch of
Antioch, JOHN X

Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of All North America
His Eminence, Metropolitan Saba

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Sunday, May 3, 2026; Sunday of the Paralytic

Martyrs Timothy the reader and his wife Maura of Egypt; Peter, archbishop of Argolis

THE FIFTH EOTHINON GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke (24:12—35).

At that time, Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he departed, wondering at what had happened. That very day, two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. And He said to them, “What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk and are sad?” Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered Him, “Are you only a stranger in Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?” And He said to them, “What things?” And they said to Him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered Him up to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find His body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that He was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said, but Him they did not see.” And Jesus said to them, “O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. Jesus appeared to be going further but they constrained Him, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So He went in to stay with them. When He was at table with them, He took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures?” And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

THE EXAPOSTEILARION OF THE PARALYTIC IN TONE TWO

The sovereign man-befriending Lord, He that is all-compassionate, drew nigh and stood at the Sheep’s Pool that He might heal men’s diseases; and there He found a man that lay abed, enfeebled many years, to whom the Savior cried aloud: Take up thy bed now, and go forth; walk in the upright and straight paths.

THE EXAPOSTEILARION FOR PASCHA IN TONE TWO

When Thou hadst fallen asleep in the flesh as one mortal, O King and Lord, Thou didst rise again on the third day, raising up Adam from corruption, and abolishing death: O Pascha of incorruption! O salvation of the world!

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (9:32—42)

In those days, as Peter went throughout all regions, he came down also to the saints who dwelt at Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who was bedridden for eight years and paralyzed. And Peter said to him: “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; arise and make your bed.” And immediately he arose. And all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned back to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha (which means Gazelle). She was full of good works and of charitable deeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they placed her in an upper chamber. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him: “Come to us without delay!” So Peter arose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him into the upper chamber. All the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and other garments which Tabitha 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, arise!” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and raised her up. Then he called the saints and widows and presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel 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 Bethesda, 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.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE

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 become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

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.

WELCOME TO VISITORS

If you are visiting with us today, we are glad you joined with us in prayer today. Please leave your email address with Fr. Methodios if you would like to receive this bulletin and the services. If you are interested in studying the Orthodox faith systematically, please come to the catechumen classes, and speak to Fr. Methodios at 512-632-8188, or contact him at methodios102@yahoo.com.

REGULAR SERVICES

WEDNESDAY	(7:00 p.m.) — Paraklesis	Confessions by appointment — contact the Pastor.
SATURDAY	(6:00 p.m.) — Great Vespers	
SUNDAY	(9:00 a.m.) — Orthros (10:00 a.m.) — Divine Liturgy	

Sunday School — 2nd & 4th Sunday following Liturgy
Catechism Class — 1st & 3rd Sunday following Liturgy

LITURGY OF MID-PENTECOST WEDNESDAY

The Divine Liturgy of Mid-Pentecost will be this Wednesday, May 6, at 7:00 pm. Fast from 2:00 pm to receive Holy Communion.

FEAST OF PASCHA

The Antiochian tradition is to feast continually until the feast of the Ascension, 40 days after PASCHA. No fasting, even on Wednesday and Friday until then. Also, don't do prostrations.

BOOK STUDY

The book study will be Wednesday, May 13, at 8:00 pm, following Paraklesis. The new book is Painless Blameless & Peaceful by Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis, in the hall and on Zoom. Zoom Meeting ID 303 479 4823; Passcode 878497.

RESALE BOUTIQUE & BAKE SALE

St. Thomas will hold a fundraising event on May 22—23. We need quality items — see the flyers in the social hall. We will need help with moving items to St. Thomas, labeling, selling, etc. Also, anyone who has baking skills is asked to make something to sell. Contact Katy Hanna for more details.

FLOWERS

We are asking for volunteers to bring flowers for the iconostasis and the tomb. Please see Khouria Dannielle if you would like to volunteer.

ON HEALING THE PARALYTIC

Jesus commands the paralytic to pick up his bed in order to confirm that the miracle was no illusion. Unless his limbs were truly firm and strong, the man would not have been able to carry his bed. The Lord did not require, as He did with many others, that the paralytic show faith before he was healed, for the man never had seen Christ work a sign. Whenever the Lord did require faith of those He was about to heal, He had already performed other miracles in their presence. See how the paralytic believed as soon as he heard Jesus' word. He did not hesitate and think, "He is mad!" Instead he believed — and rose to his feet. The Lord heals on the Sabbath to teach men to see the observances of the law in a new light: that they honor the Sabbath by refraining from evil, not by resting. How could the law forbid one from doing good on the Sabbath, when the law comes from God, who is ceaseless in doing good? — Blessed Theophylact, *Explanation of John*, Chrysostom Press, 2007, p.82-83.