

St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am.  
Worship site: Rainbow's End Nursery. 10079 State Street, Louisville, Ohio 44641  
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)  
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)  
May 26, 2013; Fourth Sunday of Pascha: Paralytic



**Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)**

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.

**Tone 4 Troparion St. Nikolai**

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; your humility exalted you; your poverty enriched you. Hierarch Father Nikolai, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

**Tone 3 Kontakion (from the Pentecostarion)**

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

**Tone 8 Kontakion (Pascha)**

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal,  
You destroyed the power of death.  
In victory You arose, O Christ God,  
proclaiming: “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women,//  
granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

**Epistle:** Acts 9:32-42

**Tone 1 Prokeimenon**

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on You!  
*v: Rejoice in the Lord, O your righteous! Praise befits the just!*

**Tone 5 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*v: I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation.  
v: For You have said: “Mercy will be established forever; Your truth will be prepared in the heavens.”*

**Gospel:** John 5:1-15

*(Instead of “It is truly meet ...,” we sing:)*  
The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:  
“Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: ‘Rejoice,  
your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!  
With Himself He has raised all the dead.’”  
Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem!  
The glory of the Lord has shone on you.

Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!  
Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,  
in the Resurrection of your Son!

### Communion Hymns

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the Fountain of immortality!  
Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Priest: "In the fear of God ..."*

*Choir: "Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord ..."*

*Priest: "O Lord, save Your 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 You, O Christ....," and the choir sings "Christ is risen from the dead...." (thrice).*



### Donation Requests:

**Icon of St. Nikolai of Zica:** Our mission is commissioning a handwritten icon of St. Nikolai. It will depict our mission patron saint with prominent scenes from his life and it will also house his holy "relics." We are humbly accepting donations towards the icon which will cost \$1200 - \$1500. If you would like to make a contribution, please make your check payable to "St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance" make a notation that it is for the Icon of St. Nikolai.

**Plashchanitsa-Epitaphios-Winding Clothe,** depicting Christ in the Tomb, that was used in the Tomb on Holy Friday and sets on the Altar for all services until Ascension. A new one was made for our mission. Because of donations of some material and labor, the cost of this sacred item is only \$150. This would normally cost \$500 to \$3000. Again, donations for this sacred item are most welcome.

**New Mission worship site items of need:** We are working diligently to make the environment conducive to "the holy work of the people of God" and to make accommodations as comfortable as possible. There are some initial added expenses and items of need to accomplish this transformation from ordinary space to "holy space." Folding chairs, room size remnant carpeting, folding tables and room fans are needed. Also, in the works are items needed to make a portable Iconostas, which includes the purchase of the framework and large Icons. Any donations specially earmarked for this very important project would be greatly appreciated.

### Meditation on the Sunday of the Paralytic:

*"O Thou Who holdest the ends of the earth in the palm of Thy hand, O Jesus our God, Who art co-beginningless with the Father, and Who, together with the Holy Spirit dost rule over all things: Thou didst appear in the flesh, healing infirmities, driving away passions, and giving sight to the blind. And, by a divine word, Thou didst raise up the paralytic, commanding him to walk straightway and to take up upon his shoulders his bed, which had carried him. Wherefore, together with him we all praise Thee and cry: O Compassionate Christ, glory to Thy dominion and might" [Oikos(narrative) of the Feas].*

On this, the fourth Sunday of Pascha, we make commemoration of the Paralytic and, as is meet, we celebrate the miracle wrought for him.

*The word of Christ was strength for the paralytic;  
And thus this word alone was his 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.

By Thy boundless mercy, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.