

FEAST OF THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

The third Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pascha is known as the Sunday of the Paralytic. The day commemorates the miracle of Christ healing a man, who had been paralyzed for 38 years. The biblical story of the event is found in the Gospel of *John 5:1-15*.

Close to the Sheep's Gate in Jerusalem, there was a pool, which was called the Sheep's Pool. It had five porches, that is, five sets of pillars supporting a domed roof. Under this roof, there lay very many sick people with various maladies awaiting the moving of the water. The first person to step in after the troubling of the water was healed immediately of whatever malady he had.

It was there that the paralytic of today's Gospel was lying, tormented by his infirmity of 38 years. When Christ beheld him, He asked him, "Will you be made whole?" And he answered with a quiet and meek voice, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool." The Lord said unto him, "Rise, take up your bed, and walk." And straightaway, the man was made whole and took up his bed. Walking in the presence of all, he departed, rejoicing, to his own house. According to the expounders of the Gospels, the Lord Jesus healed this paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and dwelt there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Evangelist, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.