The Living Waters of Mid-Pentecost
Fr. Stephen Rogers

Nothing is more elemental to life than water. Water sustains life; all the processes of our bodies are dependent on it. In fact, more than anything else, our bodies are composed of water. To thirst is to desire that which sustains us on the most basic level.

On this day we celebrate both the establishment and the experience of our salvation, our union with God. For it is the Cross and Resurrection that establishes the means of that salvation and it is in the Church, established on the Day of Pentecost, where we experience that salvation.

At Mid-Pentecost we celebrate the enormity of God’s love for us, the full revelation of the means established for our salvation. On the Cross, Christ conquers sin and death, the empty tomb proclaims the fruit of that victory and the Church is the kingdom established by the Holy Spirit and headed by Jesus Christ – the One who conquers.

At Divine Liturgy for the feast, the Gospel read is John 14:14-30. This gospel relates the account of Jesus speaking at the Mid-feast of the Feast of Tabernacles, an eight-day harvest festival during which the nation of Israel commemorated the wanderings of ancient Israel in the wilderness of Sinai. During the feast, one ceremony consisted of carrying water from the pool of Siloam and pouring it as a libation in the temple. This ceremony commemorated the water that flowed from the rock that Moses struck in the wilderness. On this occasion, Christ proclaims, “If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water” (John 17:37-38).

The fathers of the Church have always seen this living water to be the Holy Spirit who was poured out on the Day of Pentecost, establishing the Holy Church. And so we stand at the feast of Mid-Pentecost gazing in awe and joy at this living stream – its headwaters being the Cross (“out of His side flowed blood and water”); its course flowing through God’s Church, sustaining and nourishing us in this life; and its culmination being Heaven itself. “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb” (Rev.22:1). And again: “And the Spirit and the bride say ‘Come’ and let him who hears say ‘Come’. And let him who thirst come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely” (Rev.22:17).

An excerpt

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Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest :: www.antiochian.org/midwest
Fr. Pat’s Daily Reflections :: touchstonemag.com/daily_reflections
“Homilies from All Saints” podcast :: ancientfaith.com/podcasts/allsaaints

May 10, 2020 – Sunday of the Paralytic

Apostle Simon the Zealot; Venerable Laurence of Egypt


Troparion of 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.

Kontakion of Pascha (Tone 8):
Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal. Thou didst destroy the pow’r of death. In victory didst Thou arise O Christ God, proclaiming rejoice to the myrrhbearing women, granting peace to thine apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

A Note to Visitors and Guests: Welcome! We are glad you have joined us today for worship! If this is your first visit to All Saints, please take a moment to fill out a visitor’s card at the greeter’s stand before you leave. The greeter also has Liturgy Books for use during the service, if you desire one. We hope you will join us for brunch following this morning’s service.
Troparion of All Saints (Tone 4):
Adorned in the blood of Thy martyrs, throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

Megalynarion for Pascha:
The angel cried to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, 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, rejoice O ye people. Shine! Shine! Shine! O new Jerusalem. The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now, exult, and be glad O Zion. Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the resurrection, the resurrection of your Son.

Prokeimenon Psalm:
The Lord is my strength and my song.
The Lord has chastened me severely.

Gospel Reading: John 5:1-15

News and Announcements
Fasting during the Paschal season: In accordance with the custom of the Patriarchate of Antioch, we do NOT fast on Wednesdays and Fridays during the forty-day season of Pascha. We resume normal fasting practices the day after Ascension. We do still observe the normal pre-communion fast from food and drink during this time.

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Christos anesti! Aithos anesti!
Hristos a inviat! Adevat a inviat!
Al-Massih kam! Hakkan kam!
Christos Voskres! Voistinu Voskres!
Christus Surrexit! Surrexit vere!

Cristo ha resucitado! Veramente, ha resucitado!
Christus ist auferstanden! Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!

Cristo è risorto! E veramente risorto!

Le Christ est ressuscité! Vraiment Il est ressuscité!

Chrystus zmartwychwsta! Prawdzwie zmartwychwsta!

Krishti u ngjall! Vërtet u ngjall!

Christos harjav i merelotz! Orhniale harutjun Christosi!

Christus is opgestaan! Hij is waarlijk opgestaan!

Christus het opgestaan! Hy het waarlijk opgestaan!

Tá Criost éirithe! Go deimhin, tá sé éirithe!

Kristos Tenestwall! Bergit Tenestwall!

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