



Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Week of May 21st to May 27th

6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 5.

Blind Man. Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine and his mother, Helen (Elena) (327). St. Constantine (1129) and his children, Ss. Michael and Theodore, Wonderworkers of Múrom. Ven. Cassian the Greek, of Uglich (1504). The Meeting of the VLADIMIR Icon of the Mother of God (in commemoration of the saving of Moscow from the invasion of the Crimean Khan, Mekhmet-Girei in 1521).

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34 and Acts 26:1-5, 12-20
Gospel: John 9:1-38 and John 10:1-9

Weekly Liturgical Schedule

Sundays 9:15 am – Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Wednesday May 24th - 5:30 pm

Vesperal-Liturgy for the Feast of the Ascension of Christ

On the Healing of the Blind Man from Birth

Excerpts By His Eminence, Metropolitan Basilios
Archbishop of the Antiochian Archdiocese of
Australia, New Zealand & the Philippines

“When he washed in the pool he was baptized in Christ.”

This Sunday of the man blind from birth who, according to St John Chrysostom, St Basil the Great and St Irenaeus, was born without eyes, and that after washing his eyes in the holy pool, the clay was not removed but was fashioned into eyes instead.

We see that this Sunday has many themes in common with the two previous Sundays: namely the Sundays of the Paralytic and of the Samaritan woman.

Firstly, we note that ‘water’ is a running thread between these three events. The paralytic of Bethesda was waiting for 38 years by the edge of the pool of Bethesda to be healed. The Samaritan woman met Jesus at Jacob’s well to draw water where Christ spoke to her saying; “Give Me a drink.” As for today’s miracle, Jesus implored the blind man, whose eyes He had just smeared with mud, to “go, wash in the pool of Siloam”. These repeated mentions of water could possibly reference the image of Baptism.

Secondly, we note a common subject of faith and obedience to the Lord. Jesus said to the paralytic: “Rise, take up your pallet and walk”, and he obeyed, went to the temple to pray, then told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. The Samaritan woman left her water jar at the well and went into the city to preach to her people that the Messiah is here. As for the blind man, he obeyed with the fullness of faith by washing in the pool of Siloam as Christ had asked him.

Thirdly, we note a gradual knowledge of the person of Jesus as our Savior and Redeemer. Prior to these miracles, Jesus would have been viewed as just an ordinary person; the miracles in these Gospels readings gradually revealed Him to be our Savior.

In this Gospel we read that Jesus “spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man’s eyes with the clay”. By using the clay, the Lord showed that it was He who fashioned Adam out of clay as written in scripture: “Then God formed man out of dust from the ground,” (Genesis 2: 7). St. Chrysostom says: “The symbolic reason was to signify that He was the self-same (God) who formed man out of clay and that it was His work to form and fashion again (by restoring his sight) a man who was formed by Him but deformed by blindness”.

After this, the Master ordered him, saying: “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.” So, he went and washed and came back, seeing. We understand that Christ used spittle to give sight to the blind man before He sent him to the pool of Siloam in order to make it clear that He, not the water of that spring, was the source of the miracle. Blessed Augustine says: “Christ anointed the eyes of the blind, but he did not see, for when He anointed him, He most likely made him a catechumen. He sends him to the pool of Siloam. For being baptized in Christ he is illuminated”.

The blind obeyed with faith, went, was washed, and received sight! Jesus did not send him there because his eye sockets were covered in clay, nor did the pool have healing power, but instead to test his faith and

obedience. After being washed, the blind man received sight of twofold significance: physical sight, by means of which he saw the world around him, and spiritual sight, by which he recognized the Creator of the world.

Lord Jesus found him after they put him out of the synagogue, and asked him: "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said: "Who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?" Then Jesus said to him: "You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you." The Lord Jesus reaffirms what He had previously said to the Pharisees, "Before Abraham was, I AM" but He has now proven it by word and deed.

Apodosi or leave-taking of Pascha

This is the last Sunday of the Paschal period before the Feast of the Ascension, which will follow on Thursday of this week. The Apodosi or Leave-taking of the Feast of Pascha is on Wednesday, a day which is free of fasting and celebrated with the joy and brightness of the Feast of Feasts. This is the last day the Troparion of Pascha, "Christ is Risen..." is sung.

Prayer Request for the sick

Robert (John) Forster
Robert Kozera
Matushka Larysa
Megan – David & Phyllis Bartos' daughter
Herta Brasowski – Former Parishioner
Linda, Christine & Lisa – Friend of Robert & Debra Forster
Rosemary – Friend of David & Phyllis Bartos

Please pray for our families in Ukraine

Olga, Yaroslav, Lydia, Sergei
Anatoly, Olga, Maria, Andrei;
Anatoly, Svetlana, Yulia, Alina
Leonid, Nadezhda, Andrei, Halina,
Vladimir, Marina, Dmitry, Nina
Nadezhda, Alexander, Tatyana,
Roman, Nikolai
Roman, Olessia, Alexander
Vitaly, Denis, Vasily, Raisa, Valery, Nikolay
Olga, Halina, Petr, Natalia

Please let us know if there is anyone you would like to add to the Prayer List.

Tone 5 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 8 Troparion (Sts. Constantine and Helen)

Thy servant Constantine, O Lord and only Lover of man, beheld the figure of the Cross in the heavens. Like Paul, not having received his call from men, but as an apostle among rulers set by Thy hand over the royal city,// he preserved lasting peace through the prayers of the Theotokos.

Tone 3 Kontakion (Sts. Constantine and Helen)

Today Constantine and his mother Helen reveal the precious Cross, the weapon of Orthodox Christians against their enemies,// for it is manifest for us as a great and fearful sign in struggle.

Tone 4 Kontakion (Pentecostarion)

I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes, and call to Thee in repentance:// "Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness."

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Pentecostarion)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps. 75:10a)

V. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. (Ps. 75:1)

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Sts. Constantine and Helen)

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, / and their words to the ends of the universe. (Ps. 18:4)

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

V. Look upon me and have mercy on me! (Ps. 118:132a)

V. Guide my steps according to Thy word! (Ps. 118:133a)

Tone 1

V. I have exalted one chosen out of My people. (Ps. 88:18b)

(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,
thy 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 thee.

Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!

Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,
in the Resurrection of thy Son!

Communion Hymn

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of
immortality!

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and
their words to the ends of

the universe. *(Ps. 18:4)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Scripture Readings

Acts 16:16-34 (Epistle)

16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation."

18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

20 And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city;

21 and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe."

22 Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods.

23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.

24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.

28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Acts 26:1-5, 12-20

(Epistle for Sts. Constantine and Helen)

1 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself." So Paul stretched out his hand and answered for himself:

2 "I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I shall answer for myself before you concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews,

3 especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently.

4 My manner of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know.

5 They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

12 While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,

13 at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around

me and those who journeyed with me.

14 And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

15 So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.'

16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.

17 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you,

18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.

John 9:1-38 (Gospel)

1 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.

2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

6 When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.

7 And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

8 Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?"

9 Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he."

10 Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes

opened?"

11 He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."

12 Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."

13 They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees.

14 Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

15 Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

16 Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

17 They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

18 But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight.

19 And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

20 His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;

21 but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself."

22 His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.

23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

24 So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner."

25 He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

26 Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

27 He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"

28 Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples.

29 We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."

30 The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes!

31 Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.

32 Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.

33 If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."

34 They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

36 He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

37 And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

John 10:1-9

(Gospel reading for Sts. Constantine and Helen)

1 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

7 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.