

Scripture Readings

EPISTLE Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34 In those days, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

GOSPEL John 9:1-38 At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of Him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As He said this, He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." So I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet. The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become His disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is He, sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe;" and he worshiped Him.

Gospel Reflection: Blindness and the Darkness of the Soul



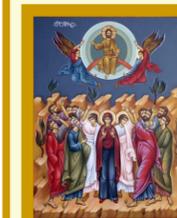
The popular adage "There are none so blind as those who will not see" was penned by the English writer, John Heyward (1497-1580), based on a verse from the Prophet Jeremiah: "Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not." (Jeremiah 5:21) At the center of many of Jesus' miracles, preaching, and admonitions was the sense of human sight. Often referred to as the "windows of the soul," seeing physical reality with the eyes of the body became a metaphor for the illumination of spiritual understanding. So it is in today's Gospel passage. The blindness of the man whom Jesus healed came not from a physiological cause. Rather, it came from the man's inability to see his own failings and refusals to heed the Master's counsel. After Jesus heals his blindness, confusion ensues. The blind man's neighbors debated whether his blindness was caused by the sins of his parents, or by his own sins. Later, the Pharisees chastised Jesus for healing the man on the Sabbath. Hauled before the synagogue authorities twice, the once-blind man could not visually identify the healing Lord, nor what kind of change he had undergone or how. He knew that after washing in the pool of Siloam, "he was blind but now could see." And he knew that it was a "Prophet" who had placed the clay on his eyes and cured him. It was Jesus Christ who lifted the darkness by granting mercy for past sins, rather than casting vengeance. For Jesus, the blackness that covered the man's eyes was but a symbol of a spiritual alienation from God. This was the motivating element that came directly from the Divine heart, compelled the blind man to surrender to Jesus. Having found the man again, Jesus asked, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is He, sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe.;" and he worshiped Him. That confession of faith chased the inner darkness from a confused and fearful human heart. So it is with us. When we find ourselves in spiritual blindness, confusion, or shame, when the shadows lengthen and the fever of life tries to conquer us, what do we do? Where can we be washed clean? How may our "spiritual eyes" see clearly once again? Like the blind man, we must surrender completely to the Master, reaffirming our Christian belief, repenting of any darkness within us, and leaving that redemptive moment in the giving of thanks and glory to the One who spread the sweet paste of grace and mercy on the eyes of our souls. It is not about blame; it is about God's compassionate loving, and about our own determination to flee the darkness. It is about embracing the newly found vision of God's abiding mercy and forgiveness. All we must tell Him, the only words we need to utter from our bruised and battered heart, are "Lord, I believe" – and to mean it!

O Lord, Grant Them Eternal Rest



Rita Basdekas (40 days)
Anthoula Anagnostopoulos
(40 days)
Nicholas Wallace (1 year)

May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may their memory be eternal!



Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

Thursday, June 10, is the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord Jesus. Orthros will be at 8:30 AM followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM Together, let us rejoice in the return to the Father of His Risen Son and in anticipation of the sending of the Holy Spirit upon the faithful disciples who constitute the Church and believe that one day where Christ has gone we too shall follow.

Volunteers for Camp Good Shepherd

Our Metropolis camp, Camp Good Shepherd in Virginia, is in need of volunteers for their camp session. You must be 18 years or older to volunteer. It is from July 3 - 10 and is located at Camp Piankatank in Hartfield, VA. If you are able and interested please email Gus Loukas, Pastoral Assistant, at gloukas@stgeorge.org or call/text me at **301-787-7090**. Many thanks for reaching out to our campers!

Save and Protect, O Lord, These Thy Servants

His Eminence Metropolitan Panteleimon of Antinoes, His Eminence Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Abbess Christophora, Anatoly Seraphim, Cindy Howe, Felice Homann, Megan, Patrick, Paul, Doris, Shelika,



Reflection on the Holy Ascension of the Lord

How bright and wonderful is this Feast! It is the pinnacle of all the Feasts of the Lord, because with it the sacred and saving purpose of the Divine Incarnation of the Word of God is completed. For what purpose did the Son and Word of God become man, and underwent the passion, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the Ascension? All these events took place so that the human nature might not remain below on the earth, but be raised to heaven, become deified and glorified according to the Creator's original design. This, then, was the purpose for which the Son of God condescended to assume within His Godly person our human nature, which had fallen from its original condition, to renew it with His Crucifixion and Resurrection and to raise it to the heavenly heights with his glorious Ascension, presenting it to God the Father as the super-brilliant trophy of His victory. The glorious Feast of the Ascension of our Lord invites us all who wish to celebrate it truly to do what the holy Apostles did upon the Ascension. They worshiped their Teacher then returned to the temple in Jerusalem (the 'foundation of peace') to continually glorify

God and await the descent of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 24:52-53) Likewise, we should return to our homes and make peace with all. We should thank our Savior because He gave us the opportunity to celebrate His Ascension and to beseech Him from the depths of our heart to make us worthy to celebrate the Holy Pentecost as well and be renewed with the grace of the Holy Spirit. It is with this grace that we shall be able to continue the struggle for virtue and to do works which are worthy of our heavenly calling, so we may one day enter into the great joy of the coming of our Lord. O Ascended Christ, as we celebrate Your return to the Father, prepare us for the great coming of Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit through Whom we are made holy! Amen.

Congratulations to Our Graduates!



We wish all of our graduates congratulations on the occasion of their commencement from high school, college, or graduate school. We are proud of the hard work and effort you put into your studies and we ask God to bless you in your future endeavors and may He always be with you!

PARISH MINISTRIES

BIBLE STUDY: The Spring session of Bible Study has begun and is held on Thursdays at 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM. The subject of our study is be the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. Sessions are on ZOOM. All are welcome to join this important study! Please bring your Bibles to each session.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Every Monday at noon, fifteen-minute reflections live-streamed through the Orthodox Christian Network at <https://www.facebook.com/MyOCN/>.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

LIGHT A CANDLE: Please make wax and red glass candle offerings and tray offerings at <https://stgeorge.org/livestream/> - thank you for your continued love and generous support!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP DINNER: June 8, 6:00 PM at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac, MD. All men are welcome to join for fellowship, to learn about our Orthodox faith, and to build and nurture next-generation leadership in the knowledge of God. RSVP to Michael Sakellarides at msakellarides53@gmail.com

ST. GEORGE MISSION TEAM: to continued safety concerns we have decided not to travel out of state this year. Our spirit is high, and we will embark in local service projects to assist those in need. Please consider participating and be part of an organization that puts your Orthodox faith to work. Students can earn service hours. For information, contact Athena Kaiser at avmail@verizon.net or (240) 498- 0870.



THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE

Rev. Fr.
Dimitrios J. Antokas,
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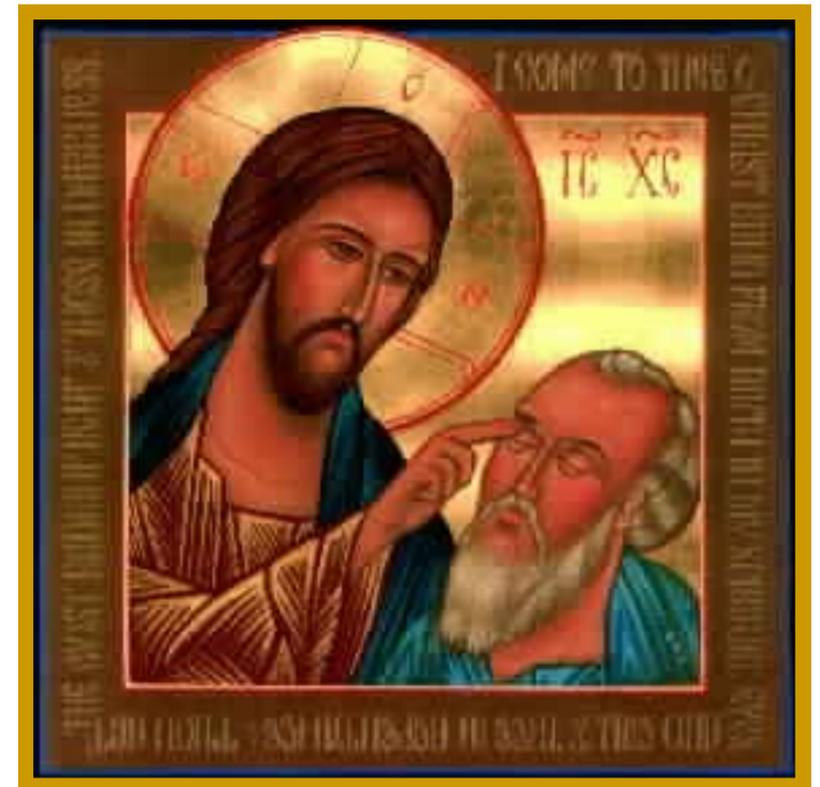


St. Hilarion the Great

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SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN St. Hilarion, Abbot of the Dalmatian Monastery

June 6, 2021



Χριστός Ανέστη!
Ἀληθῶς Ανέστη!

Apolytikion of the Feast of Feasts

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας,
καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζωὴν χαρισάμενος!
Christ is Risen from the dead, by death trampling down
upon death, and to those in the tombs
He has granted life!