

**SERVICE OF TYPIKA ON SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020**  
**TONE 5 / EOTHINON 8**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN**

VENERABLE STYLITES SIMEON THE YOUNGER OF THE MOUNTAIN OF WONDERS AND NIKITAS OF PEREYASLAVL-ZALESSKI; MARTYR MELETIOS THE GENERAL OF GALATIA; VENERABLE VINCENT OF LERINS

VARIOUS ARRANGEMENTS OF "CHRIST IS RISEN"

Arabic ([slow, chant](#)) // English ([slow, chant](#)) // English-Arabic-Greek ([quick, chant](#))  
English-Greek ([slow, choral](#)) // Arabic ([slow, choral](#))

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

People: Amen.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death; and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (THRICE)

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

People: Amen.

- The following Psalms and hymns may be chanted or plainly read.

PSALM 102: CHANTED IN TONE EIGHT

- + Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy Name.
- + Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee,
- + Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities,
- + Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion,
- + Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's.
- + The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged.
- + He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed.
- + Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered, neither unto eternity will He be wroth.
- + Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us.

- + For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him.
- + As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us.
- + Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust.
- + As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth.
- + For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof.
- + But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him.
- + And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them.
- + The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all.
- + Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words.
- + Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will.
- + Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion.
- + Bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 145: CHANTED IN TONE TWO

- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*
- + Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord in my life, I will chant unto my God for as long as I have my being.
- + Trust ye not in princes, in the sons of men, in whom there is no salvation.
- + His spirit shall go forth, and he shall return unto his earth. In that day all his thoughts shall perish.
- + Blessed is he of whom the God of Jacob is his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God, Who hath made heaven and the earth, the sea and all that is therein,
- + Who keepeth truth unto eternity, Who executeth judgement for the wronged, Who giveth food unto the hungry.
- + The Lord looseth the fettered; the Lord maketh wise the blind; the Lord setteth aright the fallen;
- + The Lord loveth the righteous; the Lord preserveth the proselytes.
- + He shall adopt for His own the orphan and widow, and the way of sinners shall He destroy.
- + The Lord shall be king unto eternity; thy God, O Zion, unto generation and generation.

“O ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON” IN TONE TWO

*Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

O Only-begotten Son and Word of God, Who art immortal and Who didst deign for our salvation to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, and without change became man, and was crucified, O Christ our God, and didst trample death by Death, being yet one of the holy Trinity, glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us.

THE BEATITUDES: CHANTED IN TONE EIGHT

- + In Thy kingdom, remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into Thy kingdom.
- + Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- + Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.
- + Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.
- + Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.

- + Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.
- + Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.
- + Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.
- + Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- + Blessed are ye when men shall revile ye, and persecute ye, and say all manner of evil against ye falsely for My sake.
- + Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven.
- + Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
- + Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
- + Remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into Thy kingdom.
- + Remember us, O Master, when thou comest into Thy kingdom.
- + Remember us, O Holy One, when thou comest into Thy kingdom.

#### SCRIPTURAL READINGS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

- *Both of the New Testament lessons are read without liturgical introduction or conclusion. The readers start with "The Reading from..." and proceeds.*

#### THE EPISTLE

#### **The Reading from the 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.

## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (9:1-38)**

At that time, when Jesus was passing, 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. I 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 God?" 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.

### TROPARIA BEFORE THE CREED (Plain Reading)

1st Reader: The heavenly choir singeth Thy praises, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

2nd Reader: *Come unto him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.*  
The heavenly choir singeth Thy praises, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

1st Reader: *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*  
The choir of holy angels and archangels, with all the powers of heaven, singeth Thy praises, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

2nd Reader: *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

### THE NICENE-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten before all worlds: Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, of one essence with the Father by Whom all things were made. Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried. And on the third day rose again according to the Scriptures. And ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, Who procedeth from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Leader: Forgive, remit, pardon, O God, our sins, both voluntary and involuntary, in deed and in word, in knowledge or in ignorance, committed by night or by day, in mind and in thought. Forgive us them all, for thou art good and lovest mankind.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

People: Amen.

### THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT (CHANT) (CHORAL)

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)

Leader: O Christ our God, Who art worshipped and glorified at all times at every hour both in heaven and on earth; Who art long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who lovest the just man and showest mercy upon the sinner; and Who callest all men to repentance through the promise of blessings to come; receive, O Lord, at this very hour our supplications, and direct our lives in the way of Thy commandments: sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, set our minds aright, cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; compass us about with Thy holy angels, that, guided and guarded by them, we may attain unto the unity of the Faith, and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory; for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)  
*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Reader: More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: We magnify thee.

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

People: Amen.

Reader: Blessed be the name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore. (THRICE)

### PSALM 33

Reader: I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. In the Lord shall my soul be praised; let the meek hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together. I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my tribulations. Come unto Him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his tribulations. The angel of the Lord will encamp round about them that fear Him, and will deliver them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that hopeth in Him. O fear the Lord, all ye His saints; for there is no want to them that fear Him. Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing. Come ye children, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is there that desireth life, who loveth to see good days? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Turn away from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are opened unto their supplication. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, utterly to destroy the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out of all their tribulations. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart, and He will save the humble of spirit. Many are the tribulations of the righteous, and the Lord shall deliver them out of them all. The Lord keepeth all their bones, not one of them shall be broken. The death of sinners is evil, and they that hate the righteous shall do wrong. The Lord will redeem the souls of His servants, and none of them will do wrong that hope in Him.

People: *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

### A HOMILY

Light Shines Even in the Dark Prison of Death

Homily for the Sunday of the Blind Man in the Orthodox Church

Fr. Philip LeMasters, pastor, St. Luke Antiochian Orthodox Church of Abilene, Texas

Leader: Christ is Risen! It is so easy for people to be blind to the truth about themselves. It is not hard to notice when others do not see the truth about what they do, but it is often quite difficult to notice our own blindness. If we are honest, we will acknowledge that we are quite skilled in shutting our eyes to uncomfortable truths. That should not be surprising, for we are inhabitants of a world darkened by sin and death. Like the man in today's gospel lesson, we are all blind because we lack full spiritual clarity; and we cannot simply give ourselves the ability to behold the truth perfectly. Unfortunately, we often prefer the darkness of our impaired vision to the brilliant light of Christ's empty tomb.

The blind man in today's gospel did not even know that Jesus Christ was the Son of God at the time of the miracle. He apparently did not even ask Him for healing. Instead, the Savior was simply doing the work of His Father as the Light of the world when He restored his sight. The healing of the blind man is an icon of Who Christ is, a sign of what happens when the Son of God shares His life with us. Christ spat into the ground, anointed the man's eyes with the clay, and told him to wash. These details reflect that the Lord in His Incarnation truly entered into our life as the God-Man, becoming in His humanity one of those created from the dust of the earth even as He remains fully divine. It is through the washing of baptism that we put Him on like a garment and enter into His death in order to rise to the new life for which He created us in the first place. His glorious resurrection on the third day is the fulfillment of His restoration and healing of humanity in the divine image and likeness. In Him, our blindness dies that His words may be fulfilled in us: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." (Matt. 5:8)

Remember how dark it was at the Pascha service when one candle was lit with the words: "Come receive the Light from the Light and glorify Christ, Who is Risen from the dead." And then after we sang the Lord's resurrection outside in candle light, we returned to a brilliantly lit church all decked out in white. Not only is Pascha a celebration of Christ's resurrection, but also of ours through Him. And that resurrection is not simply a future hope, but already a present reality when we find healing from the blinding power of sin and death in our lives. His resurrection has made it possible for us to participate in the light-filled joy of holiness for which He breathed life into us in the first place. It has opened the eyes of our souls to His glory.

Our epistle reading provides us with another icon of what it looks like when the darkness is overcome by light. The jailer was ready to kill himself rather than endure the penalty that awaited him for letting his prisoners escape after the earthquake. In the brutal world of the Roman Empire, a cruel death awaited him for losing his captives. The man was so shocked when St. Paul assured him that they were all still in their cells that he asked how to find salvation. Christ's resurrection destroyed the prison of Hades, opened its doors, and set its prisoners free. Now in this miracle, a

man who was literally a slave to death had the eye of his soul opened to the light. He was set free from despair, received the washing of baptism, and began a new life.

The jailer may have known nothing about Jesus Christ before the earthquake, even as the blind man did not know that Jesus Christ was the Son of God until after his sight was restored. One said, “What must I do to be saved?” and the other asked “And Who is, He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?” Here we see that true spiritual knowledge of Christ is Christ Himself. By His merciful initiative, He enables us to participate in Him, to experience and know Him by grace. The Lord gave neither of these men mere ideas, rules, or feelings. No, He made them true participants in life-changing spiritual truth, in His own divine energies. He is the Light that they beheld. He released them from the dark prisons they had known.

In these last days of the season of Pascha, we must learn from their examples to open the eyes of our souls as fully as possible to the healing light of the Savior. None of us has perfect knowledge of our sins, of course, but can we all name some fairly obvious ways in which blindness has remained in us. By virtue of putting on Christ in baptism and being filled with the Holy Spirit in chrismation, we all have the spiritual clarity to know generally in what ways we have chosen to remain in the dark prison of the tomb. The good news of Pascha is that Christ has shattered the doors and chains of that prison. He has opened the eyes of us who have always been blind. He has become one of us so fully that He has made even death itself a passageway to life. He has made even the darkest night radiant with His divine glory.

As hard as it may be to believe, the Lord enables each of us to behold and shine with His holy Light. The more that we embrace Him through faith, love, and repentance, the clearer vision we will have of the remaining spots of darkness in our lives. Keep in mind that great saints do not pat themselves on the back about becoming more holy; to the contrary, they are all the more aware of their sins and their constant need for mercy. They know the truth about themselves more clearly before the infinite holiness of God, which inspires them to deep humility.

We must not fall prey, then, to the temptation to discouragement when we catch a glimpse of the darkness that is still in us. Due to our pride, we may want to abandon the serious pursuit of the Christian life when growing spiritual health enables us to see our own sinfulness more clearly. That is the problem with better vision: we may not like what we see. Due to our sloth and laziness, we may want to put aside prayer, fasting, forgiveness, serving our neighbors, or other spiritual disciplines because they require effort and we do not do them particularly well. And the more we advance in them, the more we will see how much room we have for growth.

When such temptations arise, we must remember that our goal is not to accomplish anything that can be measured according to the standards of this world, for we seek to experience something different from anything else in this life. To behold the divine glory as we share in the life of Christ is an eternal goal, a transcendent reality that cannot be compared with anything else. It is true, real, spiritual experience and knowledge. The full opening of our spiritual eyes is another way of speaking of the purity of heart that, as Christ said, enables us to see God.

Our awareness of the darkness in our lives is simply a realistic reminder that we have an infinitely long way to go in the journey to theosis. Instead of giving up, we must use our failings and



struggles as inspirations to press on in obedience to the only One Who has conquered sin and death, the only One Who has united divinity and humanity in His own Person. He is the Light shining in the darkness of this world and of our own sick and weak souls. Though it is not easy, we must continue to do what it takes to open ourselves more fully to His brilliant light. As those who have beheld the glory of His resurrection, returning to the dark prison of the tomb is simply not an option. Instead, we must keep moving further into the Light, into Him, trusting that He is still at work giving sight to the blind and setting free the prisoners of sin and death. And, yes, that includes you and me.

### **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE**

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

### **MEGALYNARION FOR PASCHA IN TONE ONE (CHANT) (CHORAL)**

*The Angel cried unto her that is full of grace: O pure Virgin, rejoice, and again I say, rejoice; for thy Son hath arisen from the grave on the third day.*

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; dance now and be glad, O Zion, and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

People: Amen.

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