

ST. ELIAS THE PROPHET CHURCH BULLETIN

May 20, 2012

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Sunday of the Blind Man

The Lord Jesus was coming from the Temple on the Sabbath, when, while walking in the way, He saw the blind man mentioned in today's Gospel. This man had been born thus from his mother's womb, that is, he had been born without eyes (see Saint John Chrysostom, Homily LVI on Matthew; Saint Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book V:15; and the second Exorcism of Saint Basil the Great). When the disciples saw this, they asked their Teacher,

"Who did sin, this parents, that he They asked this Lord had healed the Sheep's Pool, "Sin no more, lest come unto thee" they wondered, if caused by sin, have been the being born the Lord this was for the



man, or his was born blind?" because when the the paralytic at He had told him, a worse thing (John 5:14); so sickness was what sin could cause of his without eyes. But answered that glory of God.

Then the God-man spat on the ground and made clay with the spittle. He anointed the eyes of the blind man and said to him, "Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam." Siloam (which means "sent") was a well-known spring in Jerusalem used by the inhabitants for its waters, which flowed to the eastern side of the city and collected in a large pool called "the Pool of Siloam." Therefore, the Saviour sent the blind man to this pool that he might wash his eyes, which had been anointed with the clay-not that the pool's water had such power, but that the faith and obedience of the one sent might be

made manifest, and that the miracle might become more remarkable and known to all, and leave no room for doubt. Thus, the blind man believed in Jesus' words, obeyed His command, went and washed himself, and returned, no longer blind, but having eyes and seeing. This was the greatest miracle that our Lord had yet worked; as the man healed of his blindness himself testified, "Since time began, never was it heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind," although the Lord had already healed the blind eyes of many. Because he now had eyes, some even doubted that he was the same person (John 9:8-9); and it was still lively in their remembrance when Christ came to the tomb of Lazarus, for they said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have caused that even this man should not have died?" Saint John Chrysostom gives a thorough and brilliant exposition of our Lord's meeting with the woman of Samaria, the healing of the paralytic, and the miracle of the blind man in his commentaries on the Gospel of Saint John.

GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READINGS

Epistle Reading

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 Reading

John 9:1-38 Sunday of the Blind Man

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.

Resurrectional Apolytikion Plagal of the First Tone

Eternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation. As the faithful we both praise and worship Him, for in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross, and death did He endure and He raised unto life the dead through His all glorious resurrection.

Church Apolytikion

Incarnate Angel and summit of the Prophets, second forerunner of the coming of Christ glorious Elijah sent down grace from on high to the Prophet Elisha. He heals diseases and cleanses the leprous. He pours healings on all who honour him.

Kontakion

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.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Greek Festival 2012

We need volunteers for this year's Greek Festival 2012. If you like to volunteer, please contact Kerry Tramountanas. We are also selling our Festival raffle tickets after church. Please see Kerry Tramountanas after church.

You will be missed.....

We would like to express our deepest love to the Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Bulter and their children William and Jonathan . Today is their last day with us . They will be moving back to Florida. It is a big lost for us and we will miss you and your family. May the Lord our God, protect and guide you and your family with good health and happiness. Have a safe trip and God be with you.

SERVICES AND INFORMATION

This Week's Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, 20 May Blind Men

prosforo/ coffee hour Susan and Paul Proestos

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Monday, 21 May St. Constantine and Helen **prosforo Niki Constantaras**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Thursday, 24 May Ascension **prosforo Fr. Dimitri**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 26 May No Great Vespers

Sunday, 27 May Holy Father's 1st Council

prosforo Niki Constantaras coffee hour Mary Santikos

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 2 June Saturday of the Souls **Prosforo Fr. Dimitri**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Sunday, 3 June Pentecost

prosforo Fr. Dimitri coffee hour Nyphe Kefal

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 9 June No Great Vespers

Sunday, 10 June All Saint's Day

prosforo Fr. Dimitri coffee hour Helen Skinas

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Friday, 15 June Greek Festival

11:00am - 9:00pm

Saturday, 16 June Greek Festival

11:00am - 9:00pm

No Great Vespers

Sunday, 17 June FATHER'S DAY

prosforo Fr. Dimitri coffee hour Frederika Vaupen

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 23 June Great Vespers 5:00pm

Sunday, 24 June St. John the Prodromos

prosforo Fr. Dimitri Coffee hour Anastasia Stevens

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Friday, 29 June SS. Peter and Paul **prosforo Fr. Dimitri**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 30 June

No Great Vesper

Sunday, 1 July

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Memorial Service

A 3 year memorial for Dolores Ballas is offered by Mr. Peter Ballas and his family. May her memory be eternal.