

The Sunday of the Blind Man John 9:1-38

And as Jesus passed by, He saw a man which was blind from his birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When He had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing. The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he. Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight. Then said they unto him, Where is He? He said, I know not. They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind. And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes. Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see. Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This Man is not of God, because He keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them. They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of Him, that He hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet. But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see? His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that He was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him. Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this Man is a sinner. He answered and said, Whether He be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. Then said they to him again, What did He to thee? how opened He thine eyes? He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be His disciples? Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art His disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence He is. The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence He is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this Man were not of God, He could do nothing. They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou

hast both seen Him, and it is He that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped Him. (KJV)

Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese!
Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Hristos a inviat! Adevarat a inviat!

The Sunday of the Blind Man

The present Gospel is well known to faithful believers of God's Holy Church. This Gospel is read each year following Pascha when Jesus Christ's Resurrection from the dead is celebrated.

Today's Gospel proclaims the Lord Jesus Christ resurrected the life of the man born blind. Jesus Christ gave the man a new life with sight. The joy of always being able to hope in the Resurrected Christ is verified in today's Gospel.

Being born blind can be devastating to the person afflicted. Blindness affects not only the person. The blind person's family and friends are affected. This Gospel reading verified Jesus' power to restore sight to the blind.

Blindness in human beings is not only physical. People may have the physical ability to see, but are spiritually blind to the fullness of life possible with God. Spiritually blind people fail to see God present in their lives and in the world.

Individuals blind to the presence of God in life have a limited view. They are deprived of the joy, peace, love and hope emanating from the living God. Eternal life and the Kingdom of God are not known to the spiritually blind.

Jesus Christ offers hope to individuals with spiritual blindness. Jesus Christ offers a bright new and everlasting view of life. Jesus Christ offers Light to individuals living in spiritual darkness.

Jesus Christ describes Himself as the Light of the world. Darkness never prevails when Jesus Christ is in sight. Light is synonymous with hope. Light and hope motivate persons to live with great joy and draw strength from Christ.

Jesus Christ offers a life full of joy for individuals choosing to unite with and follow Him. Jesus transformed the blind man's life in the current Gospel. Jesus gave the man born blind a completely new vision of life.

Jesus Christ gave the blind man's parents reason to be filled with immeasurable joy. Family members have reason to celebrate when a member with spiritual blindness is healed by Jesus Christ.

The Sundays following Pascha until the Feast of the Ascension are filled with messages of great joy. The Paschal period is full of constant joy. Jesus Christ rising from the tomb enlightens believers and repels the darkness in life.

Thank God for the Church proclaiming the Gospel message about the man born blind. Thank God for Jesus Christ offering constant hope, love and healing. Thank God for each person seeing life anew in Jesus Christ,

Centuries of dark periods in the world have not eradicated the Light of Christ. Dark forces have not triumphed against the Light of Christ. The Church embodies the vision of everlasting life in Jesus Christ.

Sunday of the Blind Man. The Venerable Simeon the Stylite of the Wonderful Mountain. May 24/June 6, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

Father Rodney Torbic