

The Sunday of the Blind Man

The miracle described in today's Gospel (John 9:1-38) is even more remarkable than it might seem at first. Saint Basil and other Fathers tell us that this was not just a case of giving sight to a blind man born with eyes that did not function, but to someone who had no eyes at all! The second Exapostilarion for this Sunday says, "Along the way, our Savior found a man who lacked both sight and eyes..."

The Gospel says, "Since the world began, it was not heard that any man opened the eyes of one who was born blind" (John 9:32). There are examples in the Old (Tobit 2:17) and New (Mark 8:22-26) Testaments of blind people receiving sight, but this is something completely unprecedented.

The Savior placed clay in the man's empty sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. When he obeyed these instructions, the eyes of clay became living eyes!

NOTE: Fr. Nicholas is on Mt Athos. Please remember to pray for his safe and profitable journey. Please call Fr. John Strickland with any pastoral emergencies at [360-536-1334](tel:360-536-1334). Father will be back for the Vigil at Ascension.

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the West

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Readings

Epistle Acts 16:16-34; Acts 26:1-5, 12-20

Gospel John 9:1-38; John 10:1-9

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 (*SS 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 (*SS 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 (*from the 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."



This Week at St. Herman's

Sunday, May 21th - *The Blind Man*

- 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, May 23rd - *St. Michael the Confessor*

- 6:00 PM - Greek Class, Port Townsend

Wednesday, May 24th - *Ven Simeon the Stylite*

- 7:00 PM - Vigil

Thursday, May 25th - *Ascension of our Lord*

- 9:00 AM - Divine Liturgy

Saturday, May 27th - *Heiromartyr Therapon*

- 7:00 PM - Great Vespers