

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

At that time, as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, “Is not this he who sat and begged?” Some said, “This is he.” Others said, “He is like him.” He said, “I am he.” Therefore they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?” He answered and said, “A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and I received sight.” Then they said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” Therefore some of the Pharisees said, “This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, “What do you say about Him because He opened your 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 who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does 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 sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.” His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, “Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner.” He answered and said, “Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.” Then they said to him again, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” He answered them, “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?” Then they reviled him and said, “You are His disciple, but we are Moses’ disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from.” The man answered and said to them, “Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.” They answered and said to him, “You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?” And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.” Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.

## Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

website: [sspeterpaul.org](http://sspeterpaul.org)

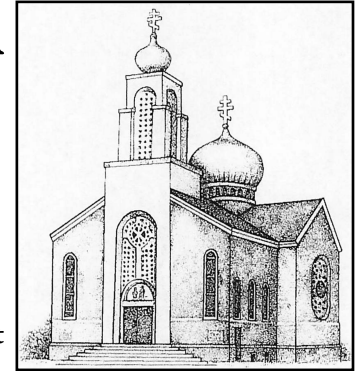
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6th Sunday of Pascha—Tone 5

The Blind Man

May 21, 2023

Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine and his mother, Helen (327). St. Constantine (1129) and his children, Ss. Michael and Theodore, Wonderworkers of Múrom.

### Christ is Risen! Indeed he is risen!

We welcome everyone who has come to this house of the Lord. We especially welcome all guest and newcomers.

Please feel free to follow along with a Divine Liturgy book from the table at the glass doors. For this Sunday and most of the year, we are using the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

Holy Communion is a solemn responsibility: Orthodox Christians who have prepared through Confession, prayer, and fasting may participate. At the end of the Liturgy, everyone is welcome to come forward for a blessing and to share in the blessed bread (called “antidoron,” this blessed bread is used in our prayers but is not itself a sacrament).

Afterward, please join us downstairs for fellowship and refreshment. We look forward to greeting you personally, and we are glad that you are here.

## Upcoming Events in Parish Life

We invite anyone to participate in our services online. Visit our website ([sspeterpaul.org](http://sspeterpaul.org)) for details.

Saturday, May 20	Vigil followed by Confession	5 PM
Sunday, May 21 <i>Blind Man</i>	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
Tuesday, May 23	Matins for the Leave-taking of Pascha	6 PM
Wed., May 24	Ascension Vigil	6 PM
Thursday, May 25	Divine Liturgy—Ascension of the Lord	9:30 AM
Saturday, May 27	Evening Worship, Supper & Fellowship	5 PM
	All are welcome to enjoy supper and fellowship together after our evening worship. Bring a friend!	
Sunday, May 28 <i>1st Ecumenical Council</i>	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
Tuesday, May 30	Foundation in Orthodox Christianity Online Session 10: Running the Race	6 PM
Saturday, June 3	Pentecost Vigil	6 PM
Sunday, June 4 <i>Holy Pentecost</i>	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
	“Kneeling Vespers” of Pentecost follows	
Saturday, June 10	Vespers at All Saints, Hartford	
	We are invited to celebrate the eve of All Saints’ patronal feast. There is a supper afterward.	
Sunday, June 17	Vespers at Christ the Savior, Southbury	6 PM
	Fr. Joshua is participating in a baptism in Southbury	

**2023 Vacation Church School at Three Saints Park: June 19-23, 2023 (NOTE NEW DATES).** Youth aged 5–15 are invited for a day camp at Three Saints Park, 112 Miller Road, Bethany, CT. VCS meets daily 9 AM to 4 PM, with Family Night on Friday starting at 5 PM. Cost is \$45 per child. Your child will experience fun, faith, friendship, swimming, games, bible study, religious education, worship and song. This year’s theme will be “The Holy Apostles.” Questions? Call Fr. Patrick Burns (203) 734-3988.

Application forms are now available for **Diocesan Youth Rally, Aug. 7–12.** Children aged 9–17 are encouraged to attend this high-quality camp run by the Diocese of New England at the St. Methodios Faith & Heritage Center, New Hampshire. Many adults from our parish serve as Rally Staff, and parish youth have been blessed by the experience. Rally volunteers Tim Tassmer, Elias and Ephraim Mosher would be glad to answer questions.

**The City of Meriden is planning work on the streets around the church:** Park Ave, Webster, Sherman and Franklin, starting on May 21 and continuing into October. The work is scheduled between 7 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, as well as some Saturdays. We expect that only some of these streets will be inaccessible at once, and hopefully the City Park lot will be available for much of the summer, but do be aware of this complication for weekday activities at church.

The cross is lit today for **Al (Bubby) Mankevich.** May his memory be eternal!

### We Ask Your Prayers

**Many years to all those who have as their heavenly patron the Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Constantine and his mother Helen** (May 21).

**Many years to all those celebrating anniversaries:** Peter & Theodora Boris on May 23. Joseph & Jennifer Uliase on May 24. Fr. Joshua & M. Jennifer Anne Mosher on May 25. Daniel & Beverly Veronick on May 26.

**Many years to all those celebrating birthdays:** Alexander Mankevich on May 22. Andrea Rodgers & M. Jennifer Anne Mosher on May 23.

**For the Sick & Suffering:**

Mka. Evelyn (Kreta)—broke her wrist	
William (Waas)—family of Sarah Massaro	
Corey (Knap)—nephew of Valentina Knap, recovering from a serious accident	
William (Weidmann)—husband of Adrian, suffering from a chronic immune condition similar to multiple sclerosis	
Steven (Cardillo)—local Neighborhood Association organizer	
Gregory (Mankevich)	Christopher (Sullivan)
Anita (Propheter)	Rosemary (Delaney)
Irene	Lorraine
Jacob	Katelyn
Crystal	Victoria

To share news in the bulletin, or to add someone to our prayer list, please contact Fr. Joshua: [priest@sspeterpaul.org](mailto:priest@sspeterpaul.org) or 203-237-4539.

If you would like to commemorate loved ones by lighting the cross in church, please contact Alexia Tassmer: 203-284-0856.



## Hymns of the Day

### 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 (Sts. Constantine and Helen)

Your 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 Your hand over the royal city, //  
he preserved lasting peace through the prayers of the Theotokos.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

### Tone 3 Kontakion (Sts. 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.

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

### Tone 4 Kontakion (Pentecostarion)

I come to You, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes,  
and call to You in repentance://  
“You are the most radiant Light of those in darkness.”

### Prokeimenon in the Eighth Tone

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (*Ps 75/76:11*)

*Verse:* In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. (*Ps 75/76:1*)

### Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Sts. Constantine and Helen)

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, / and their words to the  
ends of the universe. (*Ps. 18:4*)

### Alleluia

*Verse:* Look upon me and have mercy on me! (*Ps 118/119:132*)

*Verse:* Guide my steps according to Your word! (*Ps 118/119:133*)

*Verse:* I have exalted one chosen out of My people. (*Ps. 88:18b*)

## Notes on the Week

In the Ascension resides the meaning and the fullness of Christ's Resurrection. The Lord did not rise in order to return again to the fleshly order of life, so as to live again and commune with the disciples and the multitudes by means of preaching and miracles.... That is why the disciples were confused and frightened. Christ arose not in the same way as those who were restored to life before Him. Theirs was a resurrection for a time, and they returned to life in the same body, which was subject to death and corruption—returned to the previous mode of life. But Christ ... arose in a body of glory, immortal and incorruptible.... And now He ascends to the Father, yet He does not “go away,” but abides with the faithful for ever (cf. The Kontakion of Ascension). For He raises the very earth with Him to heaven, and even higher than any heaven....

And with Christ, man's nature ascends also. “We who seemed unworthy of the earth, are now raised to heaven,” says Saint John Chrysostom. By His Ascension the Lord not only opened to man the entrance to heaven, not only appeared before the face of God on our behalf and for our sake, but likewise “transferred man” to the high places. “He honored them He loved by putting them close to the Father.” ...

The Ascension is the token of Pentecost, the sign of its coming, “The Lord has ascended to heaven and will send the Comforter to the world.” ... “On high is His body, here below with us is His Spirit.... Heaven received the Holy Body, and the earth accepted the Holy Spirit. Christ came and sent the Spirit. He ascended, and with Him our body ascended also” (Saint John Chrysostom). ... Now the Spirit Comforter is poured forth on all flesh. Through renewal and glorification in the Ascended Christ, man's nature became receptive of the Spirit....

The Ascension is a sign and token of the Second Coming. “This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11). The mystery of God's Providence will be accomplished in the Return of the Risen Lord. In the fulfillment of time, Christ's kingly power will be revealed and spread over the whole of faithful mankind....

We should tremble more at the thought of that abundant Glory which is appointed unto the redeemed, than at the thought of the eternal darkness. In very truth, “wondrous and terrible is Thy divine ascension from the mountain, O Giver of Life.” A terrible and wondrous height is the King's throne. In face of this height all flesh stands silent, in awe and trembling. “He has Himself descended to the lowest depths of humiliation, and raised up man to the height of exaltation.”

What then should we do? “If thou art the body of Christ, bear the Cross, for He bore it” (Saint John Chrysostom). “With the power of Thy Cross, Oh Christ, establish my thoughts, so that I may sing and glorify Thy saving Ascension.”

*V. Rev. Georges Florovsky, extract of his article, “And He Ascended,” 1954*