

Sunday, May 9

Sunday of the Man Born Blind

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life.

Tropar, tone 5: Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word, * co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, * and born of the Virgin for our salvation. * For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, * to suffer death and to raise the dead * by His glorious resurrection.

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

Kondak, tone 4: With eyes that are spiritually blind * I come to You, O Christ; * and, like the man who was blind since birth, * I cry out to You with repentance: * You are a shining Light * to those who are in darkness.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen!

Kondak, tone 8: Though You went down to the grave, immortal Lord, * You destroyed the power of Hades * and rose victorious, Christ our God. * You who said "Rejoice" to the myrrh-bearing women, * give peace to Your apostles * and offer resurrection to the fallen.

Prokimen, tone 8: Pray and give praise to the Lord our God.

Verse: God is renowned in Judah, in Israel great is his name.

Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 16: 16-34

In those days as we were on our way out to the place of prayer that we met a slave girl who had a clairvoyant spirit. She used to bring substantial profit to her masters by fortune telling. The girl began to follow Paul and the rest of us shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God; they will make known to you a way of salvation." She did this for several days until finally Paul became annoyed, turned around, and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you, come out of her!" Then and there the spirit left her. When her masters saw that their source of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the main square before the local authorities. They turned them over to the magistrate with this complaint: "These men are agitators disturbing the peace of our city! Furthermore, they are Jews, which means they advocate customs which are not lawful for us Romans to adopt or practice. The crowd joined in the attack on them and the magistrates stripped them and ordered them to be flogged. After receiving many lashes they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was given instructions to guard them well.

Upon receipt of these instructions, he put them in maximum security, going so far as to chain their feet to a stake. About midnight, while Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God as their fellow prisoners listened, a severe earthquake suddenly shook the place, rocking the prison to its foundations. Immediately all the doors flew open and everyone's chains were pulled loose. The jailer woke up to see the prison gates wide open. Thinking that the prisoners had escaped, he drew his sword to kill himself; but Paul shouted to him, "Do not harm yourself! We are all still here." The jailer called for a light, then rushed in and fell trembling at the feet of Paul and Silas. After a brief interval he led them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" Their answer was, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, and all your household." They proceeded to announce the word of God to him and to everyone in his house. At that late hour of the night, he took them in and bathed their wounds; then he and his whole household were baptized. He led them up into his house, spread a table before them, and joyfully celebrated with his whole family his newfound faith in God.

Alleluia Verses: Turn to me and have pity on me. Steady my footsteps according to your promise.

Gospel: John 9: 1-38:

At that time as Jesus walked along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, was it his sin or that of his parents that caused him to be born blind?" "Neither," answered Jesus. "It was no sin, either of this man or of his parents. Rather, it was to let God's works show forth in him. We must do the deeds of him who sent me while it is day. The night comes on when no one can work. While I am in the world I am the light of the world." With that Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with his saliva, and smeared the man's eyes with the mud. Then he told him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." (The name means "One who has been sent.") So the man went off and washed, and came back able to see. His neighbors and the people who had been accustomed to see him begging began to ask, "Isn't this the fellow who used to sit and beg?" Some were claiming it was he; others maintained it was not but someone who looked like him. The man himself said, "I am the one." They said to him then, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered: "That man they call Jesus made mud and smeared it on my eyes, telling me to go to Siloam and wash. When I did go and wash, I

was able to see.” “Where is he?” they asked. He replied, “I have no idea.” Next, they took the man who had been born blind to the Pharisees. (Note that it was on a sabbath that Jesus had made the mud paste and opened his eyes.) The Pharisees, in turn, began to inquire how he had recovered his sight. He told them, “He put mud on my eyes. I washed it off, and now I can see.” This prompted some of the Pharisees to assert, “This man cannot be from God because he does not keep the sabbath.” Others objected, “If a man is a sinner, how can he perform signs like these?” They were sharply divided over him. Then they addressed the blind man again: “Since it was your eyes he opened, what do you have to say about him?” “He is a prophet.” he replied. The Jews refused to believe that he had really been born blind and had begun to see, until they summoned the parents of this man who now could see. “Is this your son?” they asked, “and if so, do you attest that he was blind at birth? How do you account for the fact that now he can see?” The parents answered: “We know this is our son, and we know he was blind at birth. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we have no idea. Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself.” (His parents answered in this fashion because they were afraid of the Jews, who had already agreed among themselves that anyone who acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, “He is of age -- ask him.”) A second time they summoned the man who had been born blind and said to him, “Give glory to God! First of all we know this man is a sinner.” “I do not know whether he is a sinner or not,” he answered. “I know this much; I was blind before; now I can see.” They persisted: “Just what did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” “I have told you once, but you would not listen to me,” he answered them. “Why do you want to hear it all over again? Do not tell me you want to become his disciples too?” They retorted scornfully: “You are the one who is that man’s disciple. We are disciples of Moses. We know that God spoke to Moses but we have no idea where this man comes from.” He came back at them: “Well, this is news! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not hear sinners, but that if someone is devout and obeys his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever gave sight to a person blind from birth. If this man were not from God, he could never have done such a thing.” “What!” they exclaimed, “You are steeped in sin from your birth, and you are giving us lectures?” With that they threw him out bodily. When Jesus heard of his expulsion, he sought him out and asked him, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”

“You have seen him,” Jesus replied. “He is speaking to you now.” “I do believe, Lord.” he said.

Instead of ‘It is truly right...’: The angel cried out to the One full of grace: * “O chaste Virgin, rejoice! * And again I say, rejoice! * Your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day * and raised the dead.” * Let all people rejoice! * Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, * for the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! * Exalt now and be glad, O Sion! * And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight * in the resurrection of your Son.

Communion Hymn: Receive the Body of Christ; partake of the source of immortality. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

“Christ is risen...” replaces: “Blessed is he who comes...,” ‘We have seen the true light,’ “May our mouths be filled,’ ‘Blessed be the name of the Lord,’ and ‘Glory be to the Father....’ at the dismissal.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, “Christ is risen...” is sung three times, with the addition of “And to us He grants life eternal, let us bow to his third day resurrection.”