



# Weekly Bulletin

## Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

### The Sunday of the Blindman

#### Kontakion of Pascha, Tone 8

Thou didst descend into the tomb,  
O Immortal. Thou didst destroy  
the power of death. In victory  
Thou didst arise, O Christ God,  
proclaiming "rejoice" to the  
myrrhbearing women. Granting  
peace to thine apostles and be-  
stowing resurrection on the fallen

#### Troparion of the Sunday of the Blindman, Tone 8

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 to  
those in darkness.

#### Sentenced to Immortality

Man sentenced God to death;  
by His Resurrection, He sen-  
tenced Man to immortality. In  
return for a beating, He gives  
an embrace; for abuse, a bless-  
ing; for death, immortality.  
Man never showed so much hate  
for God as when he crucified  
Him; and God never showed  
more love for man than when  
he arose. Man even wanted to  
reduce God to a mortal, but God  
by His Resurrection made man  
immortal. The crucified God is  
Risen and has killed death. Death  
is no more. Immortality has  
surrounded man and all the  
worlds.

— Blessed Justin (Popovich)



### PASCHA CHRIST IS RISEN

Deus rescucitore  
Cristo está recusitado  
Krisztus Föltámandt  
Christ est resuscitit  
Christi Ungia  
Krisztus er upatiginn  
المسيح قام  
CHRISTUS RAIGAS  
Christus ist auferstanden  
Jesus Chrystus Zmatwychwstal  
Christus prisikhele  
Χριστός 'Ανέστη  
Hristos a Inviat  
Cristo Resorto  
Christ is risen  
ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΚΥΧΒΥΤΥ  
CHRISTUS RESURREXIT  
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Christus prisikhele  
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## **Announcements and Activities**

**Great Vespers**—Saturday, at 5:30 PM.

**Divine Liturgy** – Sunday, at 10AM

**Great Vespers for the Ascension of the Lord**– Wednesday, at 6PM.

**Divine Liturgy for Ascension**– Thursday, at 9AM.

**Coffee Hours**– This week’s Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Luci. F. and Linda D. Next week’s Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Olga H. and Larissa and the Diederich family will contribute to honor the memory of Maria S., as we were not able to have a repast meal on the day of the funeral, due to logistical obstacles.

**Website**– thank you to Sean M. and those who have been working with him on our website to correct the problem of its having been hacked. Sean tells me that all seems to be up and working.

**Maria S. Funeral**– As we noted in the email sent this week, the funeral for Maria will take place on Wednesday, June 9th, at 12:30 PM, at the church. The interment will take place at the cemetery in San Luis Obispo. Because of the logistics it will be difficult, as noted in the section of Coffee Hour, to have a repast meal. We will delay the meal until Coffee Hour on June 13th, when we will have some photos of Maria’s life on display.

**Pray for... Hierarch Nikolai (Soraich)**— battling cancer. Samir’s friend, **Johnny, who has been improving in the battle to save his sight.** **Brian,** Sunday’s brother. **George and Alex,** health problems. **Reposed Darrel,** Kyle’s father. **Diane F. recovering from Surgery.** **Erika and Family.** **All those who have lost their lives or are suffering as a result of the current Pandemic .** **Archimandrite Alexander**– Fr. Lawrence’s long-time father confessor, who reposed. **Kerrie Photine**– recent surgery, **Karen and Scott**– battling health issues. **Mitered Archpriest Basil**– a longtime friend of Father’s, newly reposed. **Newly reposed Emiliana (Janie G.) and reposed Vadim.** **Our Vladyka Benjamin**– battling onset parkinsons. **Tsig Roman and Abraham**– I know we are always mindful of Tsig, but please continue to pray for the work and for Ethiopia, torn by civil war, with all the problems that go with a regional terror. **Newly Reposed Maria S.**—who fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, around 11:30 PM.

## **Concerning The Sunday of the Blindman:**

Last Sunday, the Sunday of the Samaritan woman, the Holy Church told us how Christ raises a person from an earthly, carnal state of mind to the state in which a human being thirsts to worship God and pray to Him. You see, the Samaritan woman came to the well for physical water which satisfies only earthly thirst. But when Christ revealed her sins to her, and she ran to Him in repentance, then in her awakened a spiritual thirst, the thirst for Living Water springing up into everlasting life, the thirst for communion with God, her first question was about prayer: where one should worship God, how to pray. Now today’s Gospel gives us a model for prayer.

“As Jesus passed by, He saw a man which was blind from birth” (Jn. 9:1). Being blind from birth he had never seen anyone. He could not imagine to himself the form of a man. He had never even seen Christ. He only knew that Christ was passing close by, that He was a miracle-worker and could give him sight. And he began to cry out, to call to Christ: “Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me!” (Mk. 10:47; Lu. 18:38). The people tried to quiet him; he was interfering with their listening to Christ’s preaching, he was disturbing the peace. Christ was walking, surrounded by His disciples, and they asked: “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...” 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” (Jn. 9:2-3;6-8)

Let us imagine to ourselves the mental state of this man blind from birth. He cried out, called. They pushed him, maybe even forced him to be silent but he still cried out, begged. Speaking in our terms, he was praying...

This is the model of prayer for you and me. After all, we too are spiritually blind and cannot see the Lord. But we know that he exists. Let us call to Him, cry out to Him, begging for help. And let us not despond if this help is not immediately given to us. Maybe we still have to go a long way, not an easy way, like the way for the blind man to the pool of Siloam. On this path we might meet unpleasant things, humiliations, like the clay for the blind man. Let us endure everything. Let us be obedient. Let us do what He orders us to do; let us go the way He showed us, like the blind man’s way to the pool of Siloam.

And here, when we have fulfilled all this, then the Lord will answer our prayer, and if it pleases Him, will fulfill it. And the same will happen to us that happened to the blind man. When through the circumstances of our life, the Lord asks us, “Dost Thou believe on the Son of God?” (Jn. 9:35), we will answer: We believe Lord! And we will worship Him.

Only Let us avoid all images during the time of prayer. We must not imagine anything to ourselves; but like the blind man, let us just *know* that the Lord is near and that He can do anything. And if things seem to turn out opposite to our prayers, let us not despond. But let us hope, hope against hope. And He will do what is beneficial for us. Let us keep the state of mind of the blind man — this is the best form of prayer.

(Taken from *The Year of Grace of the Lord*, by a Monk of the Eastern Church)

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*“There do not exist many or few, nor small or great problems. The only problem is the absence of Christ from our lives” (From the life and teachings of Elder Epiphanius Theodoropoulos)*