

Hymns and Readings for Sunday 21st May 2023

Sixth Sunday of Pascha ♦ Sunday of the Blind Man

Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine and his mother, Helen

THE HOURS

AT THE BEGINNING

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Reader: Christ is risen from the dead ... (*intoned three times*)

The Reader continues the Trisagion Prayers: "Glory to the Father ..." "All Holy Trinity ..." etc.

TROPARIA AND KONTAKION AT THE THIRD HOUR

Troparia: The Resurrection; Glory ... Saints Constantine & Helen; Both now ... From the Horologion

Kontakion: Saints Constantine & Helen

TROPARIA AND KONTAKION AT THE SIXTH HOUR

Troparia: The Resurrection; Glory ... Saints Constantine & Helen; Both now ... From the Horologion

Kontakion: The Blind Man

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

AT THE BEGINNING

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom ...

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead ... (*3½ times: English, Greek, Church Slavonic, Romanian*)

Choir: ... Și celor din morminte viață dăruindu-le!

The Liturgy continues as usual from the Great Litany.

FIRST ANTIPHON

[[Music on website / Green Book page 66](#)]

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise!

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!

Say to God: How awesome are Thy deeds! So great is Thy power that Thine enemies cringe before Thee!

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee! Let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!

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

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

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!

SECOND ANTIPHON

[[Music on website / Green Book page 67](#)]

God be bountiful and bless us! Show the light of Thy countenance upon us and have mercy on us!

O Son of God, Who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nations.

O Son of God, Who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Let the people give thanks to Thee, O God! Let all the people give thanks to Thee!

O Son of God, Who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

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

both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O only-begotten Son and Word of God. O Thou Who art Immortal, yet for our salvation didst deign to be incarnate of the holy Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary; and without change wast made man; Who also wast crucified for us; and by death didst overcome death: save us, O Christ, our God; one Person of the Holy Trinity, glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

THIRD ANTIPHON

Reader: Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face!

All: Christ is risen from the dead ... [Music on website / Green Book page 71]

Reader: As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire!

All: Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν ...

Reader: So the sinners will perish before the face of God; but let the righteous be glad!

All: Χριστος воскрес из мертвых ...

Reader: This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

All: Hristos a înviat din morți ...

ENTRANCE HYMN

In the Churches bless God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. O Son of God, Who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

TROPARION AND KONTAKIA

Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 5

[Music on website / Green Book page 98]

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.

Troparion of Saints Constantine & Helen in Tone 8 [Music on website / Sheet]

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.

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

Kontakion of Saints Constantine & Helen in Tone 3 [Music on website / Sheet]

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.

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

Kontakion of the Blind Man in Tone 4

[Music on website / Green Book page 98]

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

PROKEIMENA

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Eighth Tone.

Reader: Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God.

Choir: Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God.

Reader: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Choir: Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God.

Reader: And in the Eighth Tone.

Reader: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe.

Choir: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe.

EPISTLE

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles.

In those days: As we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God. [Acts 16:16-34]

In those days: King Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defence: "I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles - to whom I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and perform deeds worthy of their repentance." [Acts 26:1, 12-20]

ALLELUIA

Priest: Peace be to thee that readest, and to all the people.

Reader: And to thy spirit. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: Look upon me and have mercy on me.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: Direct my steps according to Thy word.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: I have exalted one chosen out of My people.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

At that time: As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who has sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither did this man sin, nor his parents; but it was that the works of God might be revealed in him. I must do the works of the one who sent me, while it is day. The night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground, made clay with the saliva and anointed the blind man's eyes with the clay. He then said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of

Siloam" (which means Sent). And so, the man went away, washed, and came back seeing. At this, the neighbours and those who saw that he had been blind before said, "Is this not the man who sat and begged?" Others were saying, "It is he!" Still others were saying, "He looks like him." The man said, "I am he!" Therefore, the people asked him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered, "A man called Jesus made clay, anointed my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash'. And so, I went away, and washed, and I received sight." Then they asked him, "Where is he?" The man replied, "I do not know." They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Again, the Pharisees also asked the man how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, I washed, and I see!" At this, 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 asked the blind man again, "What do you say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet!" The Jews did not believe the report about this man, that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight. They asked the parents, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind. But how 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 this because they feared the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone would confess Jesus as Christ, that person would be expelled from the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age. Ask him!" And so, they called the man who had been blind a second time, and they told him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner!" At this, the man answered, "I do not know if he is a sinner. One thing I do know: that though I was blind, now I see!" They said to him, "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? You do not also want to become his disciples, do you?" They insulted him, and said, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered them, "How amazing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. Now we know that God does not listen to sinners; but he will listen to anyone who is God-fearing and who does his will. Since the world began, it has never been heard of that anyone opened the eyes of someone born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born completely in sins, and do you teach us?" And they threw him out. Jesus heard that they had thrown the man out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" The man answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshipped him.

[John 9:1-38]

The Lord said to the Jews who came to him: "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber; but he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." This figure Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

[John 10:1-9]

THE ZADOSTOYNIK

[Music on website / Green Book page 78 or 79 / Sheet]

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:

"Rejoice, O pure Virgin!

Again, I say: Rejoice,

thy Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!

With Himself He has raised all the dead."

Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!

The glory of the Lord has shone on thee.

Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!

Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of thy Son!

COMMUNION HYMNS

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality! Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

AFTER COMMUNION

Priest: "O God, save thy people ..."

Choir: "Christ is risen ..." (*Once, instead of "We have seen the True Light ..."*)

Priest: "Always, now and ever ..."

Choir: "Let our mouths be filled ..."