



Church website: www.hrocbv.org

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Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church

222 Mary Street, Rostraver Township, PA
(Serving the faithful of Belle Vernon and surrounding areas)

Reverend Father Stephan Gresh

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May 24, 2020

Christ is Risen!

Services	Thurs., May 28 th	Ascension of our Lord Hours Divine Liturgy	8:45 am 9 am
	Sat., May 30 th	Venerable Isaac of Dalmat Hours Divine Liturgy	8:45 am 9 am
	Sun., May 31 st	Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council <i>(Seventh Sunday of Pascha)</i> Hours Divine Liturgy	9:45 am 10 am
	Mon., Jun. 1 st	Martyr Justin, the Philosopher and companions Hours Divine Liturgy	8:45 am 9 am

Epistle

(Acts 16:16-34)

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation."

And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged *them* into the marketplace to the authorities.

And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city;

"and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe."

Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded *them* to be beaten with rods.

And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.

Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.

But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Gospel (John 9:1-38)

Now 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.

*Take time to read the scriptures to prepare your heart and mind
for Sunday's Liturgy.

Next Week: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Gospel Reading: John 17:1-13

Announcements:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!! A Very Happy Birthday to *Katherine Dupay* who is **101 years** young on Sunday, May 24, 2020! May God grant her many years and blessings!

Congratulations to the Class of 2020! GOD BLESS OUR GRADS!
And, may God keep them in His loving care in their future endeavors.

- *Ashley Salaske* from Monessen High School.
- *Bekkah Simkovich* from Ohio University – Master of Science in Environmental Studies.
- *Joelle Niro Fisher* from California University of Pennsylvania – Master of Science in Nursing Administration.
- *Paul Jacob Mica* from Penn State-New Kensington – Bachelor of Science in Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology.

A message of heartfelt gratitude:

Those who truly know me understand that I generally do not care to be made a fuss over. I would prefer to focus on attending to others.

As I reflected on my upcoming 60th birthday, I remember thinking – Oh Lord, I will be turning sixty during the “plague” – Yuck!!

Every day, month, and year that we are granted is a gift in itself from God to hopefully aid unto the workings of our salvation. Even with that in mind and given the circumstances, it still felt yucky.

Word got out and as May 10th loomed, I was blessed with a barrage of cards, candles, telephone calls and gifts. Your generosity will be warmly remembered for many years.

With gratitude and love to God for another year and for each and every one of you.

*With love and devotion,
Reader Peter*

The Sixth Sunday of Pascha: The Blind Man

By Very Rev. Fr. Lawrence Farley

In the story of the healing of the blind man in John's Gospel, we see most clearly the salvation Christ offers all through baptism and faith. This man was born blind, with shriveled eyes and with no hope. Christ, who made Adam from the earth, again took earth, added spittle to make clay, and smeared it on the man's eyes, telling him to go and wash it off in the pool of the Siloam (Siloam means “sent,” since the water was sent to that place through an aqueduct). He washed, and light flooded in through his eyes, ending his long darkness and giving him a new life. He came back to Christ seeing, confessing Him to be the messianic Son of Man, and worshipping Him.

The blind man thus becomes an image of every disciple, for all men are blind from birth in their spiritual eyes and need to call out to Christ in repentance. This call is answered in baptism: we also wash in the baptismal pool of Jesus, the One sent by the Father to be the Savior of the world. We also come back seeing and worshipping Him, confessing Him to be the Christ, the Light of the world.

Update from Fr. Stephan:

Westmoreland and the surrounding counties have recently gone from red to yellow status. Archbishop Melchizedek has given the parishes in the yellow regions permission to increase the number of attendance from 10 to 25 providing that they meet all of the requirements set by the government as well as the OCA.

The parish council met “virtually” this past Tuesday to discuss how we can expand to 25 for services. Fr. Stephan shared this with Fr. Andrew, (our Dean) as well as Fr. Bill, (our Chancellor). They have given us permission to go to 25.

Precautions that are now in place include:

- a) We will ***maintain social distancing***. Every other pew has been taped off. This provides 6’3” between rows. The center isle is 5’ wide so available rows alternate from side to side. For right now we are asking that two people sit in each pew unless they are a family group. This may change as things open up further.
- b) ***Masks are required any time that social distancing is compromised***. Example: when you come to communion Fr. Stephan will wear a mask so that you will be able to receive.
- c) Fr. Stephan will use an ***individual spoon for each communicant***. Every spoon will be cleaned and sanitized by Fr. Stephan.
- d) ***One of the parish council members will act as a greeter*** opening the doors and help to facilitate activities.
- e) There will be ***NO congregating at the candle stand***. The prayer/candle forms will be available in the pews. Fill them out at your seats. Drop in baskets at the candle stand.
- f) The ***doors are required to be locked at the start of service*** so please plan to be early! Signs will be posted on the doors.
- g) ***Fr. Stephan will continue to call to schedule***. If you sign up for a day and are not going to be able to attend, let Fr. Stephan know ASAP so that someone else has the opportunity to attend. Fr. Stephan is required to keep a log of every one who attends.
- h) The Church is cleaned and sanitized after each service. Please be considerate and make our jobs easier. ***If you use a service book please leave it on the pew so that it can be sanitized***.