

## Epistle & Gospel Reading

### **Epistle: Acts 16:16-34**

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.

## Epistle & Gospel Reading in Greek

### **John 9:1-38**

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I 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 have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "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, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe": and he worshiped him.



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
LANCASTER, PA



SUNDAY, May 24, 2020

*Symeon the Stylite; Vincent of Lerins*

**Orthros: Plagal First**

**Gospel: John 20: 11-18**

**Epistle: Acts 16: 16-34**

**Page: 960 (Pew Bibles)**

**Gospel: John 9: 1-38**

**Page: 928 (Pew Bibles)**

## The Feast of the Ascension

**O**n the Thursday of the sixth week of Pascha (this **Thursday - May 28**), we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. This feast is based on the New Testament texts of **Luke 24:50-53** and **Acts 1:1-12** which tell about the event of Jesus' ascension forty days after Pascha. **The day before the feast is the Afterfeast (Apodosis) of Pascha, the last day on which the Pascha hymn "Christos Anesti" (Christ is Risen) is chanted.**

The ascension marks the end of the early sequence of Christ's resurrection appearances. (Christ appeared to St. Paul in a special calling much later.) **The ascension, which is not simply a physical but a supernatural event, signifies the enthronement of Christ as Lord who exercises sovereignty over all things.** The ascension also indicates the glorification (*theosis*) of human nature in the risen Christ and anticipates the gift of the Spirit on Pentecost.

The joy of the Feast of the Ascension is expressed by the main hymn of the Feast:

***Christ our God, You ascended in glory and You gladdened Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Your blessing assured them that You are the Son of God and the Redeemer of the world. (Dismissal Hymn - Fest of the Ascension)***

*A Year of the Lord, Vol. 4,  
Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos, p. 58.*



### 1. APOLYTIKION OF THE RESURRECTION (Fifth Mode)

Christ is risen from the dead, by death,  
trampling down upon death,  
and to those in the tombs  
He has granted life.

### 2. HYMN OF THE SMALL ENTRANCE (Second Mode)

In the congregation bless God the Lord,  
who springs out of Israel.  
Save us, O Son of God  
who rose from the dead,  
To you we sing, Alleluia!

### 3. RESURRECTION APOLYTIKION (Plagal First Mode)

Let us worship the Word Who is unoriginate  
with the Father and the Spirit,  
and from a virgin was born  
for our salvation, O believers,  
and let us sing His praise.  
For in His goodness He was pleased  
to ascend the Cross in the flesh,  
and to undergo death,  
and to raise up those who had died,  
by His glorious Resurrection.

### 4. HYMN OF OUR CHURCH (Fourth Mode)

Today is the beginning of our salvation,  
and the revelation of the mystery of ages.  
The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin.  
And Gabriel proclaims this gift from God.  
Together with him we cry out to You,  
O Theotokos: "Hail thou full of grace,  
the Lord is with you."

### 5. KONTAKION (Plagal Fourth Mode)

Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal  
One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades;  
and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and  
You called out "Rejoice" to the Myrrh-bearing women,  
and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the  
fallen grant resurrection.

### 1. ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ ( Ηχ. ΠΛ. Α)

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν,  
θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας,  
καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι,  
ζωὴν χαρισάμενος.

### 2. ΕΙΣΟΔΙΚΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ (Ηχ. Β)

Ἐν Ἐκκλησίαις εὐλογεῖτε τὸν Θεόν,  
Κύριον ἐκ πηγῶν Ἰσραὴλ.  
Σῶσον ἡμᾶς, Υἱὲ Θεοῦ,  
ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ νεκρῶν ψάλλοντάς σοι.  
Ἀλληλούϊα.

### 3. ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΜΟ ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ (Ηχ. ΠΛ. α)

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι,  
τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν,  
ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν,  
ὅτι ἠύδοκῆσε σαρκί, ἀνελεθεῖν ἐν τῷ σταυρῷ,  
καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγειραὶ τοὺς  
τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

### 4. ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΝΑΟΥ (Ηχ. δ')

Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τό Κεφάλαιον,  
καὶ τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος Μυστηρίου ἢ φανέρωσις·  
ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται,  
καὶ Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζεται.  
Διὸ καὶ ἡμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν·  
Χαῖρε Κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

### 5. ΚΟΝΤΑΚΙΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ ( Ηχ. ΠΛ. Δ)

Εἰ καὶ ἐν τάφῳ κατῆλθες Ἀθάνατε,  
ἀλλὰ τοῦ Ἄδου καθεῖλες τὴν δύναμιν·  
καὶ ἀνέστης ὡς νικητὴς, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός,  
γυναιξὶ Μυροφόροις φθεγξάμενος· Χαίρετε·  
καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀποστόλοις, εἰρήνην δωρούμενος,  
ὁ τοῖς πεσοῦσι παρέχων Ἀνάστασιν.

## Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

### Sunday, May 24h

8:15 AM

9:30 AM

10:30 AM

11:30 AM

11:30 AM

### Sunday of the Blind Man

Orthros

Divine Liturgy

Memorial Day Prayers  
(Trisagion Service)

Zoom Sunday School Final Class

Virtual Coffee Hour

To Join any Parish Online Ministry, sign up at:  
[annunciationorthodox.org/signups/](http://annunciationorthodox.org/signups/)

### Monday, May 25th

8:00 PM Memorial Day - Office Closed

OCF & YA Online Discussion Group

### Wednesday, May 27th

6:00 PM Live-Streamed/Zoom Bible Study with  
Fr. Hector

7:00 PM Ascension Vespers

### Thursday, May 28th *Holy Ascension*

8:30 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

10:30 AM Women's Virtual Book Study

### Friday, May 29th

9:00 AM Paraklesis to The Theotokos

4:00 PM GOYA Zoom meeting

### Saturday, May 30th

5:30 PM GOYA Discussion Group

7:00 PM Vespers

8:15 PM Plugged-In Virtual Study Group

Scholarship Forms are available through the Church Office.

AHEPA has extended deadline for submission to July 2nd.

Please submit online only to George Ioannidis @  
[Vyzantio@aol.com](mailto:Vyzantio@aol.com) (Mailed forms will not be accepted).

High School and College Graduates to be honored after

Liturgy on Sunday, May 31st. High School Graduates:

Please submit name & photo to church office by May 27th.

College Graduates: Please submit name and degree title to  
church office by May 27th.

Email personal video to [theodosiospalis@gmail.com](mailto:theodosiospalis@gmail.com) by  
Wednesday, May 27th to be part of the video honoring the  
graduates, to be streamed after Liturgy on Sunday May 31st.