



## **ST. SIMEON ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox  
Christian Archdiocese of North America

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**DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES FOR SUNDAY, MAY 21,  
2023**

**TONE 5 / EOTHINON 8**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE BLIND  
MAN;**

**EQUALS-TO-THE-APOSTLES CONSTANTINE AND HELEN**

CONSTANTINE, PRINCE OF MUROM, AND HIS SONS MICHAEL AND  
THEODORE, THE WONDERWORKERS

## **WELCOME!**

***“The Newest Church in Santa Clarita is the Oldest Church in the World.”***

St. Simeon Orthodox Church welcomes all of you to our community this Sunday- for truly, ***“This is the Day that the Lord has made.”*** We are honored to have you worship with us. If you are new to our community or simply have any questions, please introduce yourselves to Fr. George after the Divine Liturgy. He would love to meet and chat with you. May our Lord bless you and your families.

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

### **THE FIRST ANTIPHON**

**Verse:** Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises.

**Refrain:** Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

**Verse:** Say to God: How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... (*Refrain*)

### **THE SECOND ANTIPHON**

**Verse:** May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.

**Refrain:** Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

**Verse:** That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy salvation among all nations; let the people give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the people give thanks to Thee. (*Refrain*)

**Verse:** May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

### **THE THIRD ANTIPHON**

**Verse:** Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

**Refrain:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

- Verse:** As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire. (*Refrain*)
- Verse:** So let sinners perish before the face of God, and let the righteous be glad. (*Refrain*)
- Verse:** This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (*Refrain*)

### **THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PASCHA**

In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

### **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE**

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

### **APOLYTIKION OF SS. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN IN TONE EIGHT**

Having seen the image of Thy Cross in Heaven, and, like Paul, having received the call not from men, Thine apostle among kings, Constantine, entrusted the commonwealth to Thy hand, O Lord. Keep us always in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, O only Lover of mankind.

### **TROPARION FOR ST. SIMEON IN TONE ONE**

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice, thou also, O righteous Elder, as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection.

### **THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT**

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

## **THE EPISTLE**

(For Ss. Constantine and Helen)

*Their voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.*

### **The Reading from the Acts of the Sainly and Pure Apostles. (26:1, 12-20)**

In those days, King Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense: “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 art Thou, 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.”

## **THE GOSPEL**

(For Blind Man Sunday)

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (9:1-38)**

At that time, when Jesus was passing, 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. I 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 God?" 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.

## MEGALYNARION FOR PASCHA IN TONE ONE

*The Angel cried unto her that is full of grace: O pure Virgin, rejoice, and again I say, rejoice; for thy Son hath arisen from the grave on the third day.*

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; dance now and be glad, O Zion, and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

## KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Receive ye the body of Christ; taste ye the Fountain of immortality.

## OBLATIONS

Prayers are offered for **David Ajalat** on the occasion of his birthday by his loving family and friends at St. Simeon. We love you, Dawood!!!!

For **John and Laura Andonian** on 35 years of joy and blessings on their Anniversary Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. We thank God for their presence among us. Offered by the faithful of St. Simeon.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATION June 11

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, June 11th, when we will celebrate our children with a Graduation Ceremony! Following this special event, please make plans to join us for a delicious lunch in their honor!

**Men's Fellowship** volunteer event on Saturday morning, June 10, between 8 AM and noon at the Santa Clarita Valley Food Pantry. If you would like to volunteer please contact Jeff Abraham via email ([jabraham009@gmail.com](mailto:jabraham009@gmail.com)) or cell (310-880-7403).

### THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy,

glorious and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy, glorious, God-crowned and great Sovereigns Constantine and Helen, the Equals to the Apostles; and Constantine, Prince of Murom, and his sons Michael and Theodore, the Wonderworkers, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for as much as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs...

People: ...bestowing life!

**Please submit your oblations to: [stsimeonbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:stsimeonbulletin@gmail.com) by 9pm on Wednesday.**

#### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

*“I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? ....And I said, ‘Who art Thou, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus Whom you are persecuting.’”*

On this Lord’s day as we gather together as His Church we hear about St. Paul’s stunning conversion from the staunchest enemy to greatest Apostle of the Church. Saul, as he was known by the Jews, was breathing threats and murder for anyone who confessed “the Way.”. According to St. Luke he was not satisfied with killing and imprisoning Christians in Jerusalem alone, but he decided to persecute Christians beyond the capital of the Jewish world. St. Luke describes him as though he were a wild predator, choking on his fanatical hatred of Christians. He was traveling to Damascus to wreak more havoc on the church when the Lord appeared to him in a blinding light. Although it does not say so in the book of Acts, we know that he saw Jesus Himself when he recounts this episode in 1 Cor 9:1 and 15:8. As Saul, known in Greek as Paul, writes; *“Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (1Co 15:8-9 NKJ)”*

You see my beloved, being “religious” is a very dangerous thing if it makes one feel better than and judgmental toward others. This

includes those of other religions (even the modern secular religion of humanistic materialism) or even if they have no belief at all. If we condemn others, we will be judged with the same judgement.

In contrast, our Lord did not shun the Samaritan woman at the well because she was a heretic- He engaged her by asking her for a drink! When she asked him about worship, he did not bash her views as heretical but He led her step by step into a knowledge that He was the Messiah- the One that she had been waiting for, the One who knew her even from her mother's womb. He revealed Himself to her because she was humbly seeking the truth, and **ready to change her whole life to follow Him** once convinced of that truth. St. Paul was also convinced of religious truth, but when confronted by a vision of our Lord, He was humble enough to admit He was wrong and more importantly, was **willing to change his whole life based on the Truth** that was revealed to him.

Beloved in Christ Jesus, if we are willing to change our whole lives to follow our Lord by our words and our deeds, He will reveal Himself to us. Let us humbly seek the truth of our faith by joining ourselves to Him in His Holy Church. Christ identifies so closely with us as His church because we are His very body. This is the meaning of holy communion. This is also why Jesus cried out to Saul, (who was persecuting the Church )” why are you persecuting **me**?” As we sing in the Liturgy, “Let us commit ourselves and each other and all of our life unto Christ our God. We do this together beloved not as individuals but as a part of the Church. Amen.

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace,  
according to Thy word**



**For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.**