Today's Announcements

- We welcome all our visitors today and those returning. We pray that you will make Saint Alexander's your spiritual home. Please fill out a visitor's card at the candle desk if you would like more information about Saint Alexander's.

Saturday – October 10
- Great Vespers – 5:00 pm, followed by Confessions

Next Sunday – October 11
- Church School - 8:30 am
- Hours – 9:10 / Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Coming Events – Mark Your Calendar
- Women’s Choice Network Banquet – October 13. This event has gone virtual and we will be hosting a watch party in the church hall. Please see the October newsletter for further details and RSVP to Eileen Glisan by October 6.
- Pierogi workshop – October 23

COVID Restriction Reminders
- Please continue to notify Roy Glisan by email or phone (roy.glisan@alcoa.com or 724-591-5765) if you plan to attend Sunday Liturgy.
- Please do not consider attending if you do not feel well or have a known recent exposure to the COVID virus, or if you have recently visited one of the high-incidence states.
- If you have a birthday, anniversary, or name day that you would like to have recognized, please send Roy a note by email so that it can be provided to the clergy serving for the weekend and included in the weekly announcements.

The Bible in the Liturgy

Anyone who studies it can quickly realize that the Bible is closely connected with the Liturgy. In fact, before the gospels and epistles were written by the Apostles, the Liturgy was the way to express in prayer and action the words and deeds of the Lord Jesus. This is why it’s easy to find various Bible verses, phrases and words interspersed throughout the Liturgy.

So when the Apostles wrote the gospels and epistles, they had the Liturgy in their minds as a basis of worship. Much of the Gospel of John is all about Christ teaching us how to worship in the Church through the Sacraments, beginning with Baptism and the Eucharist. Even when Christ fed thousands of people, it was written as a sign of the Eucharist.

And this was done on purpose. St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke and St. John wrote many words and deeds of Jesus Christ with the Eucharist of the Liturgy in their minds. This is what can be seen regarding today's gospel reading. The Lord Jesus healed two men of blindness and then He exorcized a demon from a mute man, allowing him to speak.

The way St. Matthew wrote this passage hints of the Liturgy. As the Church Fathers say, this healing signifies Christ opening the eyes of our minds to understand all the prophecies in the Bible concerning Jesus as the Christ. In the Liturgy, priests pray for this understanding from the Holy Spirit in order to help us avoid carnal sins. And reading Scripture during Liturgy is a vital part of the service, preparing us for the holiness of partaking in the Eucharist. Moreover, when Jesus exorcized a demon from a mute man, Baptism is hinted at, since all baptisms begin with exorcizing demons from the person about to be baptized. And it hints of the fact that we can’t grasp Scripture without being baptized & receiving the Holy Spirit, even for all the sacraments.

But before healing the two blind men, St. Matthew records Jesus healing a woman with a blood disease while raising a girl from the dead. Both of these miracles hint of Christ's blood flowing on the Cross, which led to His Resurrection, which signifies the Eucharist again. And after healing two blind men and exorcizing a demon from a mute man, Jesus commands us to pray for the priesthood. This refers to Church hierarchy of priests celebrating the Liturgy and all the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, as well as clergy in charge of teaching the Gospel.

Of all the words and deeds of Jesus Christ, St. Matthew, like the other Apostles, often pointed to eucharistic realities in the Church in Liturgy. They wanted us to read the gospels and to think of some of Christ’s miracles and words as lessons about receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in communal worship by the priesthood in the Church. Contrary to our individualistic generation, the Bible has always been studied communally and practiced communally. Everything private has always come from the Liturgy and has flowed to the Liturgy. Even the Bible itself is not one prophet or one apostle telling us God's words, as in Islam and Buddhism. Rather, the Holy Bible is a collection of books written by a community of Prophets and Apostles and given by a Church of Saints, revealing Jesus to be the Christ and guiding us to see His Return.

- Fr. Andrew Gromm