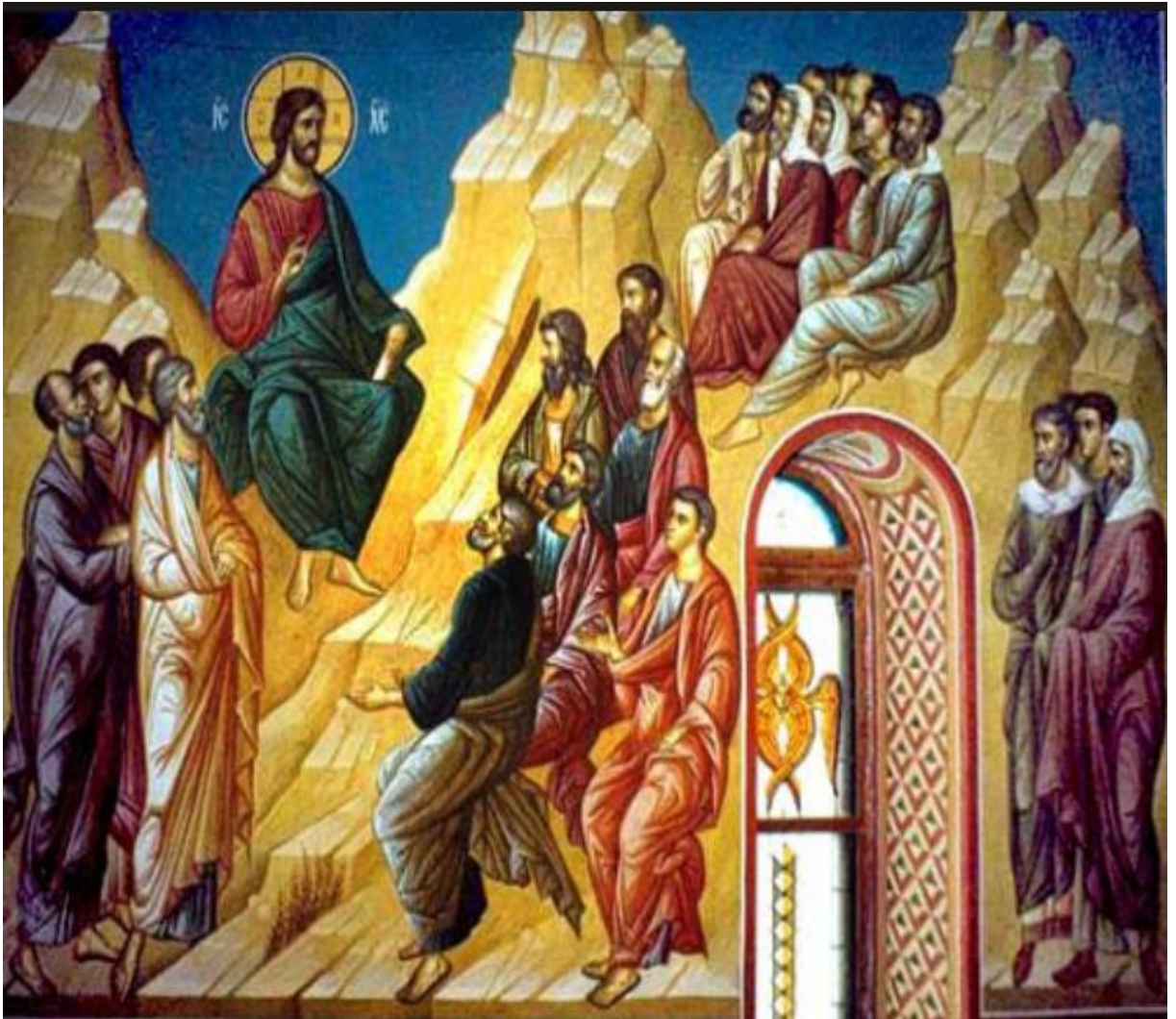


Слава Ісусу Христу!

Слава навіки!



Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Glory for ever!

УСПЕННЯ ПРЕСВЯТОЇ БОГОРОДИЦІ

Dormition of the Mother of God

Sunday, June 14, 2026

“Third Sunday after Pentecost”

Reflections for this Weekend

In today's Gospel, Christ speaks directly to the deepest struggle of the human heart. He knows that humanity is often torn between two worlds, the world of God and the world of earthly concerns. The Lord does not condemn our daily needs, nor does He ignore the realities of life. Rather, He teaches us how to place everything in its proper order so that our hearts may find true peace.

"The lamp of the body is the eye." These words invite us to look beyond physical sight and enter the realm of spiritual vision. In the Eastern Christian tradition, the eye represents the orientation of the heart. What we focus upon shapes who we become. If our spiritual gaze is fixed upon Christ, our entire being is filled with light. If our attention is consumed by worldly anxieties, selfish ambitions, or attachment to material things, darkness gradually enters the soul.

The battle for salvation often begins with what we choose to contemplate. The mind constantly seeks something to embrace. When it is fixed upon God, the soul becomes illuminated by divine grace. When it is fixed only upon earthly concerns, even good things can become obstacles to communion with God. The question Christ places before us is simple yet profound: What occupies the center of our attention?

The Lord then declares that no one can serve two masters. This teaching challenges the illusion that we can fully belong to God while allowing our hearts to be ruled by something else. Every person serves a master. Some serve wealth, others power, recognition, comfort, pleasure, or success. These things may not be evil in themselves, but when they become the ultimate object of our trust, they quietly take the place that belongs to God alone.

Saint John Chrysostom teaches that the danger of wealth is not possessing it, but becoming possessed by it. The problem is not what is in our hands, but what is in our hearts.

A person may own many things and remain spiritually free, while another may own very little and still be enslaved by greed and anxiety. True freedom comes when God alone reigns within the soul.

Christ then addresses one of humanity's greatest burdens, anxiety. "Do not worry about your life." These words are not an invitation to irresponsibility. Rather, they are a call to trust.

Anxiety often reveals that we are trying to carry a burden that belongs to God.

We become fearful because we imagine that everything depends upon our strength, our plans,

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and our control.

The Lord points to the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. They neither store up treasures nor spend their days consumed with worry, yet the heavenly Father provides for them. Christ is teaching us that creation itself proclaims the providence of God. Every flower, every sunrise, every breath we take bears witness to the Father's loving care.

From an Eastern theological perspective, anxiety is often rooted in forgetfulness of God. When we lose awareness of His presence, fear begins to dominate the heart. We start to believe that we are alone in the struggle. Faith restores spiritual sight. Faith reminds us that God is actively working even when we cannot see His hand.

The climax of the Gospel comes in the Lord's command, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." This is the great invitation of the Christian life. Christ does not promise a life without difficulties. He promises something greater. He promises that when God becomes our first priority, everything else finds its proper place.

The saints teach that the Kingdom of God is not merely a future destination. It begins within the heart that welcomes Christ. Every act of prayer, every moment of forgiveness, every sacrifice made in love becomes a participation in that Kingdom. As the Kingdom grows within us, fear loses its power, anxiety gives way to trust, and darkness is transformed into light.

The courage of discipleship is not found in controlling every circumstance of life. It is found in surrendering ourselves completely to God. When Christ becomes the treasure of our hearts, we discover that we already possess the One for whom our souls have always longed. Then, even amid uncertainty, we can walk in peace, knowing that our heavenly Father sees us, loves us, and provides all that is necessary for our salvation.



If you will notice, the weekly Divine Liturgy schedule shows a biblical reading for each day of the week. How about picking a day or two and reading the passage for that particular saint? Might be interesting!

Membership in a parish is done through a “registration” process. Parish membership is then maintained by a member’s willingness to grow with his or her parish.

Please remember, in your prayers, all our parish members who are in convalescent homes or are homebound because of illness.

***Money will buy a bed but not sleep, books but not brains, food but not appetite,
finery but not beauty, medicine but not health, luxury but not culture,
amusement but not happiness, .***

Anonymous

The Spiritual Courage to the struggle against talkativeness and the cultivation of holy silence!!!

Among the thirty steps of the Ladder of Divine Ascent, Saint John Climacus presents the eleventh step as the struggle against talkativeness and the cultivation of holy silence.

At first glance this step may seem simple compared to the great battles against anger, pride, lust, or attachment to worldly things. Yet the saints teach that this step requires tremendous courage because it touches the deepest movements of the human heart.

Words possess great power. Through words God created the world, through words the prophets proclaimed His will, and through words the Gospel is preached. Yet words can also become instruments of vanity, judgment, distraction, and self glorification. Saint John Climacus understood that the tongue often reveals what is hidden within the heart. A person may appear virtuous outwardly, but uncontrolled speech can expose pride, resentment, envy, and a desire for attention.

The courage of the eleventh step begins when a person chooses to be silent before speaking. This silence is not merely the absence of sound. It is an inner discipline that allows the soul to listen. Most people fear silence because silence removes distractions. When the noise of the world fades away, we begin to hear the thoughts that fill our minds and the desires that dwell within our hearts. We encounter ourselves as we truly are. This encounter can be uncomfortable and even frightening.

Yet it is precisely in this sacred silence that God begins His deepest work. The Holy Scriptures reveal that the Prophet Elijah did not encounter the Lord in the mighty wind, the earthquake, or the fire. He recognized God in the gentle whisper that followed. Likewise, the Christian who embraces holy silence discovers that the voice of God is often heard not in noise but in stillness. The soul becomes attentive to divine grace and begins to perceive the subtle movements of the Holy Spirit.

The Eastern Christian tradition places great value on inner stillness, known as hesychia. This spiritual tranquility is not passivity but a living attentiveness to God's presence. It is a state in which the heart becomes quiet enough to receive divine light. To attain this stillness requires courage because it demands surrender. We must surrender the desire to always express our opinions, to defend ourselves, to justify our actions, and to seek approval from others.

Christ Himself provides the perfect example of this courage. During His Passion He stood before His accusers and often remained silent. His silence was not weakness. It was the silence of perfect trust in the Father. It revealed a strength that transcended human understanding.

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Not every criticism demands a defense. Not every conversation needs our opinion. The humble soul learns that wisdom often grows in silence. Through restraint of speech, the heart gains clarity. Through listening, love deepens. Through stillness, prayer becomes more sincere.

Saint John Climacus says that talkativeness can scatter the mind, while silence gathers the soul before God. Every unnecessary word has the potential to weaken our attention to the divine presence. Holy silence, however, creates space for contemplation, repentance, and gratitude. It allows the heart to become a sanctuary where God may dwell unhindered. The courage to ascend this step is therefore the courage to trust God more than our own words. It is the courage to let Him speak while we listen. It is the courage to embrace the silence in which pride dies and humility is born. In that silence the soul discovers a profound freedom, a peace that cannot be found in endless conversation, and a deeper communion with Christ. As we strive to climb this eleventh step, may we learn that silence is not emptiness but fullness, not loneliness but communion, not weakness but strength. May our hearts become still enough to hear the voice of God and courageous enough to follow Him wherever He leads, for in holy silence the soul draws near to the living God and begins to taste the peace of His eternal Kingdom.



A Parish Smile

A little boy was asked after Divine Liturgy what he had learned in church that morning.

He replied, "I learned that God is everywhere."

His mother smiled and said, "That is wonderful. And how do you know that?"

The boy answered, "Because every time I started wandering around, someone whispered, 'Remember, God is watching you!'"

Sometimes children understand theology better than we do.

We often imagine that God is present only in church, during prayer, or when life is going well.

Yet the truth is much greater. God is with us in the grocery store, in traffic, at work, in our homes, and even while searching for our misplaced car keys.

One parishioner once joked, "I know God is helping me. Every time I lose something and finally find it, I thank Him. If I never find it, I assume He wanted me to clean the house."

There may be more wisdom in that joke than we realize.

The Christian life is not about finding God in extraordinary places. It is about recognizing that He is already present in ordinary moments. Every day offers countless opportunities to notice His blessings, share His love, and practice a little patience.

And if you happen to lose your keys this week, remember, it may not be a punishment. It might simply be God's gentle reminder to slow down, say a prayer, and clean out that drawer you've been avoiding for the last five years.

Have a blessed week, and do not forget to smile. Joy is one of God's favorite gifts.

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Sunday Divine Liturgy:
8:50 a.m. The Third Hour
And
Prayer Service for Peace in
Ukraine.
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Religious Education
September - May

Sacraments Penance:
Sunday before Liturgies
or by appointment

Baptism - Matrimony
In most instances
six-month membership
required

Funerals
Membership of an
immediate family member
required

**Communion to the
Homebound**
If you or your family
members are confined to a
health center or are
homebound, please contact
Fr. Hugo directly so that
arrangements can be made
for his visitation.

Sunday, June 14

"Third Sunday after Pentecost"

Epistle: Romans 5:1-10. Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33.

8:50 a.m. The Third Hour and Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine
9:30 a.m. Gods blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends

Monday, June 15

"The Holy Prophet Amos"

Epistle: Romans 9:18-23 Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15

Tuesday, June 16

"Our Father and Wonderworker Tychon of Amathus"

Epistle: Romans 10:11-11:2. Gospel: Matthew 11:16-20.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Wednesday, June 17

"The Holy Martyrs Manuel, Sabel, and Ismael"

Epistle: Romans 11:2-12. Gospel: Matthew 11:20-26.

Thursday, June 18

"The Holy Martyr Leontius"

Epistle: Romans 11:13-24. Gospel: Matthew 11:27-30

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Friday, June 19

"The Holy Apostle Jude"

Epistle: Jude 1-10. Gospel: John 14:21-24.

Saturday, June 20

"The Holy Priest-Martyr Methodius, Bishop of Patara"

Epistle: Romans 6:11-17 Gospel: Matthew 8:14-23.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Sunday, June 21

4th Sunday after Pentecost"

"All Saints of Rus'- Ukraine"

"Father's Day"

Epistle: Romans 8:28-39. Gospel: Matthew 5:1-16

8:50 a.m. The Third Hour

9:30 a.m. Gods blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends



We are most appreciative for your generosity in donations to the church, and pray that the Lord bless you all with many blessings and good health.