

Слава Ісусу Христу!

Слава навіки!



Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Glory for ever!

Dormition of the Mother of God

Sunday, June 21, 2026

"Fourth Sunday after Pentecost"

Reflections for this Weekend

The Gospel of Matthew 8:5 to 13 presents one of the most astonishing encounters in the entire New Testament. A Roman centurion, a foreigner, a man outside the covenant people of Israel, approaches Christ with a faith so profound that it causes even the Lord to marvel.

The passage invites us to look deeply into our own hearts and ask whether our faith trusts in God only when we understand Him, or whether it remains firm even when His ways remain hidden from us.

The centurion comes to Jesus carrying the suffering of another. His servant lies paralyzed and in great distress. The centurion's first act is not to seek something for himself, but to intercede for someone entrusted to his care. This reveals a heart transformed by compassion.

True faith is never isolated from love. The closer a person grows to God, the more sensitive he becomes to the pain of others. In the spiritual life, holiness is measured not only by prayer but also by the willingness to carry another person's burden before the throne of God.

When Jesus immediately offers to come and heal the servant, the centurion responds with words that have echoed through the centuries, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof, but only speak a word, and my servant shall be healed." These words reveal a remarkable union of humility and faith. Often people believe that strong faith means confidence in themselves. The centurion teaches the opposite. The deeper his faith becomes, the more aware he is of his own unworthiness.

Eastern Christian spirituality repeatedly teaches that humility is the doorway through which divine grace enters the soul. Pride closes the heart, while humility creates space for God.

The centurion does not demand, negotiate, or claim rights before Christ. He simply trusts.

He knows that the authority of Jesus extends beyond physical presence, beyond distance, beyond human limitations. He believes that a single word from Christ is sufficient.

This understanding reflects a profound spiritual truth. The centurion recognizes that Jesus is not merely a healer, but the Lord of creation itself. Just as soldiers obey the command of their superior officer, sickness, suffering, and even death obey the command of Christ.

The centurion sees what many others fail to see. He recognizes divine authority hidden beneath ordinary human appearance.

The Lord's response is extraordinary. Jesus declares that He has not found such great faith even in Israel. Faith is not measured by religious status, knowledge, or external appearance. Faith is measured by trust. The centurion possesses a faith that rests entirely upon the person of Christ. He does not ask for signs, proofs, or guarantees. He entrusts the impossible to the

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Lord and leaves the outcome in His hands.

For many of us, faith begins where certainty ends. We often want God to explain His plans before we trust Him. We want healing before believing, answers before surrendering, solutions before obedience. The centurion teaches another path. He believes first, and then receives. His confidence is rooted not in circumstances but in Christ Himself.

The Lord then speaks of many coming from east and west to sit at the heavenly banquet, while some who presumed themselves secure will find themselves outside. This warning remains relevant today. Familiarity with religion does not automatically lead to communion with God. One may attend church, know prayers, and participate in traditions, yet still lack living faith. The kingdom belongs to those who entrust themselves completely to the Lord.

The healing of the servant occurs at the very moment Jesus speaks. This miracle reveals that God's word is never empty. The same divine word that created the universe continues to bring healing, restoration, and life. Every time we hear the Gospel, every time we pray, every time we receive the Holy Mysteries, Christ still speaks His life giving word.

Matthew's account ultimately calls us to become like the centurion, humble enough to acknowledge our need, compassionate enough to carry others in prayer, and confident enough to believe that Christ's word alone is sufficient. When such faith takes root in the heart, miracles begin, not only around us, but within us. The greatest healing is not merely the restoration of the body, but the transformation of the soul into a dwelling place where Christ reigns with divine authority and everlasting peace.



**We extend a grand welcome to Very Rev. Archpriest David M. Petras, SEOD
who graciously has come to celebrate today's Divine Liturgy.
We thank him and hope he feels at home in our parish.**

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

Remember that God takes no vacations...He is always with you! When you are traveling, enjoy yourselves, but do not forget about your spiritual needs. Attend a Divine Liturgy no matter where you are. There is never a vacation from God! Don't forget your parish church, the expenses keep going whether you are here or not.

I choose kindness... I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone. Kind to the rich, for they are afraid. And kind to the unkind, for such is how God has treated me.

Lucado

The Spiritual Courage to the struggle against the passion of falsehood !!!

The twelfth step of the Ladder of Divine Ascent is devoted to one of the most subtle and destructive passions of the spiritual life, the passion of falsehood. St. John Climacus identifies lying not merely as speaking something untrue, but as a condition of the soul that has become separated from God, who is Truth itself. To ascend this step requires immense spiritual courage because it demands that we abandon every mask, every illusion, and every deception by which we seek to protect our ego and preserve a false image of ourselves.

Most people imagine that lying concerns only words. Yet the Fathers understood that falsehood reaches much deeper. A person can tell the truth with his lips and still live a lie with his life. We lie whenever we pretend to be holier than we are. We lie whenever we seek the praise of others while hiding our true motives. We lie whenever we refuse to acknowledge our sins, our weaknesses, and our dependence upon God. The most dangerous deception is not the lie we tell others, but the lie we tell ourselves.

The courage required for the twelfth step is therefore the courage to live in truth. This sounds simple, yet it is one of the most difficult tasks in the spiritual life. Human beings instinctively seek to protect themselves. We create images, reputations, and appearances. We fear being exposed, judged, or rejected. Because of this fear, we often build walls of deception around our hearts. Yet every wall that hides us from others also hides us from the healing grace of God.

Christ declares, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." To follow Christ is therefore to walk the path of truth. Every step toward truth is a step toward God. Every step toward deception is a step away from Him. The devil is called the father of lies because falsehood distorts reality and separates the soul from divine light. God does not ask us to be perfect before approaching Him. He asks us to be truthful. A humble sinner who acknowledges his brokenness stands closer to God than a proud person who hides behind appearances.

The spiritual battle of this step begins when a person develops the courage to see himself honestly. This requires profound humility. It is easier to criticize others than to confront our own faults. It is easier to point to another's weakness than to acknowledge our own wounds. Yet growth begins only when truth enters the heart. Just as a physician cannot heal a disease that remains hidden, God cannot transform what we refuse to bring into His light.

In the Eastern Christian tradition, self knowledge is considered a great gift of grace. The saints constantly prayed for the ability to see themselves as God sees them. This vision does not lead to despair. On the contrary, it leads to freedom. When we stop pretending, we stop carrying the

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exhausting burden of maintaining an image. We become free to stand before God exactly as we are, trusting not in our own righteousness but in His mercy.

The twelfth step also calls us to truthfulness in our relationships. Words should become reflections of the heart. The disciple of Christ learns to speak with honesty, kindness, and integrity. Truth is never a weapon to wound others. Genuine truth is always joined to love. Christ revealed the truth, yet He did so with compassion and mercy. Spiritual maturity is reached when truth and love walk together.

This step requires courage because truth often costs something. It may cost our pride. It may cost our reputation. It may require admitting mistakes, seeking forgiveness, or changing long established habits. Yet every sacrifice made for truth opens the soul more fully to God. Falsehood creates darkness, while truth creates light. Falsehood imprisons, while truth liberates.

As the believer ascends this step, a remarkable transformation begins. The soul becomes simpler, more transparent, and more peaceful. There is no longer a need to hide, pretend, or impress. The heart rests securely in God's love. Such a person gradually reflects the image of Christ, who is Truth incarnate.

The twelfth step of the Ladder is therefore the courage to stand in the light. It is the courage to abandon every deception and allow God's truth to penetrate every corner of the soul. There, in that sacred light, healing begins, freedom blossoms, and the believer discovers that truth is not merely a virtue. Truth is a Person, Jesus Christ, who calls every soul out of darkness and into the radiant glory of His eternal presence.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL FATHERS ON THIS, THEIR SPECIAL DAY!

Fathers, this is your Special Day – a day set aside to show you how much we love you and care about you. We offer you our dearest love and gratitude for your kindness, thoughtfulness, and tender loving care.

We say “thank you!”

God bless you and may the Blessed Mother always watch over you.

We ask Almighty God, therefore, to bless all of our fathers and grant them

Many Happy Year! Mnohaya Lita!

We would also remember, today, all of our deceased fathers
and ask Almighty God to grant them repose - *Veechnaya Pamyat!*

GOD BLESS ALL OUR FATHERS!

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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 21

"4th Sunday after Pentecost"

"The Holy Martyr Julian of Tarsus"

Epistle: Romans 6:18-23. Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

8:50 a.m. The Third Hour

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

Monday, June 22

"The Holy Priest-Martyr Eusebius, Bishop of Samosata"

Epistle: Romans 12:4-5, 15-21. Gospel: Matthew 12:9-13

Tuesday, June 23

"The Holy Martyr Agrippina"

Epistle: Romans 14:9-18. Gospel: Matthew 12:14-16, 22-30.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Wednesday, June 24

"The Nativity of Prophet John, The Baptist"

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4. Gospel: Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 80.

Thursday, June 25

"The Holy Venerable-Martyr Febronia"

Epistle: Romans 15:17-29. Gospel: Matthew 12:46-13:3.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Friday, June 26

"Our Venerable Father David of Thessalonica"

Epistle: Romans 16:1-16 Gospel: Matthew 13:4-9.

Saturday, June 27

"Our Venerable Father Samson, Host of Strangers"

**"Common Commemoration of Bishop Nykolai Charnecky
and the Twenty-Seven Others .**

Epistle: Romans 8:14-21. Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Sunday, June 28

"5th Sunday after Pentecost"

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10. Gospel: Matthew 8:28-9:1.

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

**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.**