

sinfulness, blessed by our holy baptism and our participation in the body of Christ. We are accompanied by the mediating presence and power of so many holy people who stand prayerfully at the throne of the Master Christ.

Our holy Church is the treasury of this gift. Let us run there, to the benefit of the mysteries of God, even if we think that we have completely lost our priceless treasure. Our Christ is waiting for us, to enrich us again. May it be!

Archim. A. A.

**SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2022 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF**

**MATTHEW** *Forefeast of the Precious Cross , Dionysios the Righteous Martyr of Vatopaidi, Joseph the Righteous of Arimathea , Eudocimus the Righteous of Cappadocia*

**TONE OF THE WEEK** : *Plagal Second Tone*

**EOTHINON** : *Seventh Eothinon*

**EPISTLE READING:** *St. Paul's Letter to Romans 15:1-7*

**GOSPEL READING :** *Matthew 9: 27- 35*

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2022 8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

*Afterfeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, The Holy Righteous Martyr Dometius, Our Holy Father Nicanorus the Wonderworker , Theodosius the New, Joseph Gerontogiannis of Lithines Sitia, Sozon of Nicomedeia , The Holy Ten Thousand Ascetics of Thebes , Narcissus the Hieromartyr of Jerusalem*

**EPISTLE READING:** *St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 1:10-17*

**GOSPEL READING:** *Matthew 14:14-22*



70<sup>TH</sup> YEAR JULY 31 2022

PAMPHLET # 31

(3609)

## THE LOVE OF GOD

Today is the seventh Sunday, in the series of passages of the holy Gospel of the holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew. His divinely inspired pen floods us today with the love of God; it tells us very succinctly, and at the same time very comprehensively, that God is present in people's lives, as it informs us about a triple miraculous intervention of Jesus, with the restoration of vision in two blind men, and of the restoration of the mental, physical and spiritual health of a deaf and possessed man. It is worth stopping for a moment, and benefiting a lot from the answer that the teacher Christ gave to the touching pleas of the first two, to turn His gaze at them, and to have mercy on them. An answer that is simultaneously, a harbinger of the abundance of love, expressed with their healing. "According to your faith, let it be done to you"; according to your faith, let what you are asking of me, be done to you. Divine, simple, words, full of love and philanthropy, which, combined with the gaze of Jesus, are already beginning the recovery process. Faith, the dialect, we would say, of the communication with the true God the bridge that unites heaven with the earth the Maker

### **THE SUNDAY GOSPEL READING : MATTHEW 9: 27- 35**

At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

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with his creature, the father with his child, is undoubtedly the possibility for man to speak the language of God, and to freely live the life that He grants.

#### **Faith, the language of the Saints**

Discipleship in the sacred tradition of the people of God, teaches us that faith is the answer to how the faithful person can defeat his passions and weaknesses, overcome the machinations of the devil, gaze at God himself in his image in

the world, which is fellow man. Above all, the faithful person, with the strength of his faith, knows when he falls, not to be disappointed, to not lose his hope, even if he is hurting and bleeding, but to take courage, confident in the grace of the Holy Mighty One, to get up and continue.

Faith makes man excel, not by being exalted, but by being humbled, escaping from the prison in which the so-called freedom is imprisoning him. The worldly criterion, when the devil rules him, has always wanted and still wants, under various pretexts, to suppress the hope that faith gives birth to. But faith resembles the leaven, which is small, is minimal, but when it is skillfully kneaded with flour and water, it greatly increases and gives many loaves, enough to feed and support the person. This is exactly how believers seem, small and cast aside, many times, to the world's shallow judgement. Faith, however, is the gift of the immortal God that immortalizes, eternalizes the person who believes, and grants him to overcome the present things unharmed, but also to participate in the joy of God's children. It is the road that fills a person with the experience of all those who chose the same path. The logic of those who do not participate in this joy, considers this choice absurd, depreciating, mocking and dynamiting it, many times.

#### **A heavenly companionship**

Encouragers of the struggler, on the path of God, are the choirs of Ascetics, Fathers, Martyrs and Neomartyrs and all of the Saints and righteous ones of the Old and New Testament. We can all be travelers on this path, despite our