



72<sup>nd</sup> Year

Sept. 1, 2024

Pamphlet #35 (3718)

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## **THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (Luke 4:16-22)**

### **Words of Grace**

*At that time, Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the sabbath day. And he stood up to read; and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke well of him, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth.*

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## **THE EXPECTATION OF ETERNAL LIFE**

The Evangelist Luke in today's passage mentions how Christ went to Nazareth, the city where He had been raised, entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day and began to preach. He is given the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. What the prophet predicted centuries earlier about the person of the Messiah is being fulfilled today. Isaiah's prophetic words define the mission of Christ in the world, which continues through the soteriological work of the Church.

## **God's covenant with man**

Christ is the source of joy. He came into the world to remove the bitterness of sin and to provide the joy of salvation. It is obvious that the Lord gives His commandments not to be an end in and of themselves or a means for man's proud self-justification, but to direct him to that which constitutes his salvation, that is, the perfect love of the Triune God and His creatures.

That is why we can say that God makes a "covenant" with man, when He sends him divine grace and develops zeal and divine inspiration in man, to keep God's law in his life. Then begins the struggle that leads him to the path of salvation.

Christ came to bring redemption to the captives, sight to the blind, freedom to the oppressed, and to herald the beginning of a new spiritual era. When we try to keep the Sacred Gospel in our lives, then we will see from experience that we cannot live with such a perfect God that the commandments describe, and also that we cannot live without God.

## **Liberation from the bonds of sin**

God becomes man to be emptied, to become bankrupt, to be judged, to be crucified, to descend into Hades, to resurrect, and to ascend, in order to reveal, with all this, the mystery of His emptying, that He is not power, strength, authority, sovereignty, condemnation, and punishment. He comes to save man in love, and with His love, to bear all our weaknesses and bear all our iniquities and to free us from our sins.

## **The viewing of God's love**

Christian life means expectation of the blessed hope and the appearance of the glory of God; it means maintaining this hope – constant adherence to the hope of the Gospel (Col. 1:23), boasting "in hope of glory" (Rom. 5:2). In God's calling, which is announced daily with the word and the mystery of Christ, the Christian hope is revealed, and whoever wants to live in it must

accept this calling of God, His word of truth, the word of His Gospel. As a life, the Christian existence is identified with freedom and redemption. Freedom is our wealth and our great expectation. The glory we await is the majesty of the freedom of eternal life, the viewing of God's love.

† F. A.

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## **From the publications of the Apostolic Ministry**

*ΟΙ ΔΩΔΕΚΑ ΜΑΘΗΤΑΙ ΚΑΙ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΙ ΤΟΥ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ  
(THE TWELVE DISCIPLES AND APOSTLES OF JESUS CHRIST)*

(2nd Edition, in Greek, Size 17x24 cm, 352 pages)

By Emeritus Professor Christos Sp. Voulgaris

This work by Professor Emeritus Mr. Christos Voulgaris fills a great gap, not only in Greek literature, but also in international literature, as few New Testament scholars have studied in an academic way the activity of the Twelve disciples of Jesus, i.e. of the witnesses who themselves heard the preaching of the God-Man, those who also undertook the mission of spreading the Gospel, that's why they were called Apostles. A monumental study of the first heroic years of the Church with rich historical and bibliographical data.

September 1, 2024: Sunday, Beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year  
Joshua of Nun (1440 BC), Ammon the deacon and 40 female martyrs  
with him; Callistes, Euodos and Hermogenes the sibling martyrs;  
Symeon the stylite († 459). Righteous Meletios  
1<sup>st</sup> Tone – Eothinon: 10 – Epist: 1 Tim. 2:1-7 – Gosp: Luke 4:16-22  
NEXT SUNDAY: September 8<sup>th</sup>, Sunday Before the Holy Cross  
Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 – Gospel: John 3:13-17

## SEMINAR FOR LEARNING GREEK SIGN LANGUAGE

The offering of guileless and sincere love is the motivation for creating and operating the Seminar for Learning Greek Sign Language. Those participating in this educational activity of the Apostolic Ministry, which is offered for free, have the capability to help their fellow man who are deprived of hearing, having however, other outlets for communication and who simultaneously are thirsting to learn about God and the Church.

- Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the start of the seminar will take place.
- For more information, those interested can address:
  - The Office of Catechism and Youth of the Apostolic Ministry tel. 210-727-2347-348 (Monday-Friday 8am-2pm)
  - E-Mail: [katixisi@apostoliki-diakonia.gr](mailto:katixisi@apostoliki-diakonia.gr)
  - The Apostoliki Diakonia Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/apostoliki.diakonia>
  - The website [www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr](http://www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr), in the section “ΠΟΙΟΙ ΕΙΜΑΣΤΕ” and the subsection “ΤΟΜΕΑΣ ΚΑΤΗΧΗΣΕΩΣ ΚΑΙ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΥ ΜΑΡΤΥΡΙΑΣ”, in which the educational-catechetical activities of the Office of Catechism are described.

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*VOICE OF THE LORD*, a weekly pamphlet of Orthodox faith and life of the "Apostolic Ministry of the Church of Greece". Iasiou 1, 115 21 Athens. Publisher – Director: Metropolitan of Phanariou, Agathangelos. Editorial office, tel. 210.7272.331. Processing, tel. 210.7272.388. Through the holy churches, it is distributed free of charge. From the Printing Office of the Apostolic Ministry.

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The *VOICE OF THE LORD* worldwide via the Internet:

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