



72nd Year

October 20, 2024

Pamphlet #42 (3725)

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (Luke 8:27-39)

The healing of the possessed man

At that time, as Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, there met him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you, do not torment me." For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. When the herdsmen saw what happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the

Gadarenes asked him to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but he sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY AND THE SALVATION OF THE WORLD

The devil is a tragic figure. God created him along with the angelic powers and destined him to become a vessel of uncreated light. However, out of pride, he turned God's love into self-love and led a rebellion against God. He failed to understand that God's throne is His love and humility.

Satan acknowledges God and believes in His power, but he does not love Christ. He confesses the Lord's divinity but fears the power of His love, which is why he begs not to be tormented. The torment of demons lies in the fact that while they hate Christ, they know He continues to love and embrace them.

The destructive work of the devil

The possessed man, under the influence of demons, responds to Jesus' question that his name is "Legion, because many demons had entered him." The demonic powers slander, that is, divide and break-up man. They distance him from God, himself, and others.

Man was created by God as a personal unity, but the demonic forces shatter and fragment this unity, the spiritual harmony of man's being. Man becomes a multitude, a mass, and his will becomes fragmented. Thus, despite the apparent multitude around him, he falls into isolation and loneliness. And

let us not forget that “Hades” means that dark place where the hell of man is his hopeless loneliness, that is, the place where there is no possibility of communication and love between one human being and another.

The energy of the “mystery of iniquity”

The mystery of iniquity, however, is already at work in history, in the history of the world and our personal history. Life is crushed and destroyed. Spiritual pursuits are despised and trampled. Freedom is used as an excuse for disorientation and degradation. If we surrender to the spirit of our age and forget that we are humans made in the image and likeness of God, if we accept to live and behave as mindless beings, who for their comfort and will accept to worship any created reality whatsoever, what will become of our lives and of truth?

The devil appears and he is alien to the Cross of Christ. He does not crucify himself because he has no connection with love and sacrifice, nor does he ask people to bear their own cross. He promises ease and comfort on the condition of our complete submission. Just like he did with Adam, who, for one baseless and foolish desire, lost life and its prospects, lost love and communion, in order to remain with the gain of an altered person and his disintegrated freedom.

Restoration of the ancient beauty

The Lord came into the world and restored in Himself the harmony and unity of man as the image of God in its original beauty. Christ transcends our sins, failures, and our will. He has united us all in His Body, which is the mystery of the Church. We experience this through the mystery of the Divine Eucharist.

Thus, when we strive to implement the divine commandments and repent, no illness of the spirit and soul remains incurable. The person who connects with God in the person of Christ not only is healed from the various passions but

often also changes in his outwardly appearance. The grace of God radiates from his face. Let us also strive to live this experience.

† F. A.

October 20, 2024: 6th Sunday of Luke

Artemios the Great Martyr († 326), Righteous Matrona of Chios († 462),
Gerasimos of Kefalonia († 1581)

Pl. 4th Tone – Eothinon: 6 – Epistle: Galatians 5:22-6:2
– Gospel: Luke 8:27-39

NEXT SUNDAY: October 27, 7th Sunday of Luke
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 – Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

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