



74th Year

August 9, 2026

Pamphlet #32 (3819)

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (Matthew 17:14-23)

The healing of the epileptic young man

At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day."

THE HEALING OF THE HEALERS

In today's Gospel reading, the Evangelist Matthew recounts the healing of a demon-possessed young man, emphasizing two principal points: first, the Lord's authority over demons, and second, His dialogue with the disciples concerning unbelief as the reason for their inability to accomplish the healing, as well as the power of faith. Christ had given His

disciples authority to prevail over all the power of the enemy (Luke 10:19), to perform wondrous healings through the Grace of His Name. And yet, in this case, they were unable to heal the afflicted young man who suffered under the influence of the evil one. When the disciples asked the Lord why they had been unable to cast out this demon, they received the following answer: "Because of your unbelief."

Faith as a healing power

Therefore, the work of preaching the Gospel, casting out unclean spirits, and delivering people from the darkness of sin, passions, and the devil is founded upon the unshakable rock of faith, which is Jesus Christ. The more genuine, radiant, ecclesial, that is, apostolic, patristic, and Orthodox our faith is, the more it radiates love and divine power, which makes the impossible possible and moves even the mountains of passions, of egotism, self-love, and self-interest.

Thus, the Disciples of Christ were in need of greater faith. For this reason, with self-awareness, they once asked Him to increase their faith: "Increase our faith" (Luke 17:5). In this sense, faith is not something given, static, or belonging to the past, but rather something that must continually be sought, possessing the power to transform and change everything: the inner and outer condition of man, the whole world, and to heal whatever is in need of healing, restoration, and renewal.

The ministers of the Church

The liturgists of God, who have been shown mercy and entrusted with service at the holy Altar, with preaching the Crucified and Risen Christ, and with contributing to the healing of people, ought to become witnesses of the Truth handed down by the Church as a new way of life. They must do so with a pure and blameless conscience, with the garment of their soul kept white, with a spirit of sacrifice, and with the love of Christ, continuing faithfully the apostolic work. The father in our Gospel

passage, if he were living today, would perhaps express the same complaint to Christ: "Your disciples were unable to heal my child." Yet the Lord, in every age, asks His disciples to cultivate a strong and living faith, joined with prayer and fasting. In this way, the servant of God matures spiritually, experiences the presence of Christ in his very being, and becomes capable of helping his brothers also to come to know Christ and to become conscious members of His Body, the Holy Church, the ark of salvation. And this is the greatest miracle, the source of all other miracles.

Self-surrender to the love of Christ

The priests of God, of course, do not come to this earth from some other planet. Through the circumstances of their family, school, social, and professional lives before their ordination, their character is formed and their personality is established. Here the upbringing offered to young people who have a vocation to the priesthood by their parents, spiritual fathers, parish, and Bishop is of decisive importance, so that they may truly love Christ and regard the Priesthood as a sacrifice. Then, later, as priests and shepherds, they will be able rightly to serve their fellow men and the Gospel of salvation.

Certainly, by his own powers a person is unable to prove worthy of God's love or to serve the mystery of the Church with apostolic faithfulness. Therefore, the liturgist of God ought, with profound humble-mindedness, to place before Christ his weakness, his shortcomings, his sins, and his lack of faith, and to ask Him to make up for what is lacking in him. Through prayer he should fill his whole being with the Holy Spirit; through fasting he should surrender himself without conditions or limits to divine Love.

Archimandrite N. K.

August 9, 2026: Sunday After the Feast of the Transfiguration
Matthew the Apostle († 63)

1st Tone – Eothinon: 10 – Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16
– Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

NEXT SUNDAY: August 16, Sunday After the Dormition
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12 – Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

From the publications of the Apostolic Ministry:

ΤΟ ΤΑΞΙΔΙ ΤΟΥ ΨΗΦΙΔΩΤΟΥ
ΣΤΟΥΣ ΤΟΠΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥΣ ΧΡΟΝΟΥΣ
THE JOURNEY OF MOSAIC ART THROUGH PLACES AND TIMES

The Christian wall mosaics around the world
and the churches that preserve them

1st Edition, in Greek, Size 24x28 cm, 720 pages
by Christoforos D. Sofroniou

A monumental work, a unique panorama of the art of mosaics, as embodied and preserved in Christian monuments worldwide. The history of Christian mosaic art is presented by period, followed by detailed and systematic descriptions of related works of art across the globe, presented in a vivid manner. At the end of this elegantly designed edition, a glossary of architectural terms, an catalogue of images and diagrams, as well as a catalogue of photographs are included. This collector's volume is prefaced by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

ΛΟΓΟΙ ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΠΡΟΣΕΥΧΗΝ
HOMILIES ON PRAYER

Revised Edition, in Greek, Size 14x21 cm, 352 pages
by Saint Gregory of Nyssa

The original text with introduction, translation, and commentary
by Archimandrite Pankratios Brousalis (†)

Follow the Program of the Radio Station of the Church of Greece:

www.ecclesia.gr

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.

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

www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr