

Dearly Beloved,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

September 13, 2026, Fifth Sunday after the Feast of Assumption

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Leviticus 18:1-5, Joshua 22:4-6, Ezekiel 34:1-6
- NT: Acts 14:2-10, Romans 2:28-3:8, Holy Gospel St Luke 11:33-41

Holy Gospel: St Luke 11:33-41

³³ “No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a bushel, but on a stand, that those who enter may see the light. ³⁴ Your eye is the lamp of your body; when your eye is sound, your whole body is full of light; but when it is not sound, your body is full of darkness. ³⁵ Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. ³⁶ If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”

³⁷ While he was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him; so, he went in and sat at table. ³⁸ The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. ³⁹ And the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of extortion and wickedness. ⁴⁰ You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? ⁴¹ But give for alms those things which are within; and behold, everything is clean for you.

Reflections:

The gospel text here has two parts to ponder on. With the grace of God, I’d like to discuss the first part here in the weekly journal while I’ll address the second part in this Sunday’s sermon.

Jesus was speaking about the light that all humans have and how it must be kept lit. Every human body is a lampstand with the eye as the lamp. The human eye is designed to receive light that will illumine both – the body and the person. Before God created anything, the earth was dark and void (Gen 1:1). So, He commanded light to appear. Without light, anything else being created would have been invisible.

God is light. He allowed His light to transcend His being to become the light that would be visible to the world. He then created stars that would burn to become light bearers. They lit up the universe. And for the earth and its inhabitants to see the divine light of God, humans created in his Image and Likeness, were formed in the image of the uncreated light of God.

Christ commanded His disciples to receive the light from Him, the eternal light, so that they would become the light of the world. Isaiah the great prophet tells – ‘Arise, Shine, for the light has come’ (Is 60:1). He was referring to the coming of the Messiah the eternal light. This is exactly what the Lord had said about himself, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life” (Jn 8:12). The disciples, since their joining Jesus, were always with the light. They woke up to the light, walked with the light, dined with the light, saw miracles with the light. Nothing was without Jesus; nothing was without the light. Thus, when He was crucified, they unpreparedly slumped into darkness. However, after the passion and resurrection, they could see the light with more clarity and conviction. Any darkness that may have remained had got resolved by His lighting presence.

On the feast of Pentecost, the disciples received the light into them. With the active presence of the Holy Spirit, they became lights. Judas too had had this light. But, because of his betrayal for the

want of the kind of money he had not seen for a while, the light left his being and he plunged into despair thus hanging himself to death. ***When selfish ambitions darken the mind, the inner being of anyone dies soon.***

Our role is to lighten the world around. It is possible only by walking with Christ. Choices we make decide whether we will walk with him or without him. Whenever we choose greed or ego, we move away from the Lord. Judas did that. He had made up His mind to give up His master for anything. He had pleased the bosses, and he received the deal he had signed for, but he could not keep it with him for a moment. The money and his peace slipped away from his hand together.

Jesus had alerted the disciples, "So be careful. Don't let the light in you become darkness" (Lk 11:35). Being the carriers of light, it is our responsibility to safeguard it. To safeguard Jesus in our heart. To hold onto Him, no matter what. To lean on Him, always. Before the Holy Liturgy, the hymn is chanted as a reminder- By Thy Light we see the Light Jesus, full of light! Let Christ be our light so that it is no longer us but Him who is seen when the world looks at us!

FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:

- September 08, Feast of the birth of Theotokos
- September 09, Commemoration of Joachim & Hannah, parents of St Mary

Upcoming Feasts & Events:

- September 13, Sunday School Reopening, PTA Meeting. All students are requested to complete their registration for 2026-27 academic year before Sep 13.
- September 14, Feast of the Cross (Sleebe Perunnal). Morning prayer starts at 06:30 am followed by Holy Qurbana and elevation of the cross.
- September 20, Parish Semi Annual GBM
- September 27, Sunday, Harvest Festival & Auction
- October 11, Sunday, Parish Night. All organizations are requested to start preparations and practice for their presentations ASAP.
- October 24, Saturday, OCYM Fest -Thaalam 2026. Please look for updates.
- November 07 Saturday & 08 Sunday, Feast of St Gregorios

Pray for Peace in the Middle East and Gulf

We are glad to hear about the peace agreement. We hope for peace and continue praying for peace and concord. Our prayers may work miracles through the Holy Spirit. May the governments and leaders join hands to reconcile and to bring an end to the war.

Attention Please:

Parking: Please be considerate while parking our vehicles, only park at designated space. Leave reserved lots for the intended and kindly park within lines and markings leaving enough space for others to open their doors without scratching or hitting nearby parked vehicles.

AREA PRAYER MEETING:

If any family is willing to host prayer meetings, please reach out to the area coordinators or the parish office.

FOR OUR ATTENTION & TO NOTE:

Children, please occupy front benches during our Liturgical Services.

Kindly avoid crowding at the back of the church.

For assuring safety and undistracted worship space, we request all our members to proceed to the front rows except those that are reserved for children when we enter the temple. It could be uneasy for our volunteers to guide them to the front during the service as it might cause distraction and noise. We avoid crowding at the entrance and stair areas due to safety concerns.

Please be considerate of our senior members to help them find seats or while they try to access the washroom. A slip or a hit should be avoided in any circumstance.

Please be watchful at the shoe rack area, which is also the entrance to both washrooms.

We request parents to attend to their children not to pull the alarm lever at the back wall.

Hand Waving Machine & Common Absolution Prayer for all communicants

A hand-waving machine has been installed at the church entrance to record the number of communicants. Those who wish to receive the Holy Communion are requested to wave their hand once at the machine upon entering the church.

Please note that the machine will be deactivated after the recitation of the Nicene Creed.

Absolution will be administered during the morning prayer.

WEEKLY IN-PERSON MEETINGS:***September 13, Sunday – in-person meetings/Events***

- *Sunday School Reopening*
- *SS PTA Meeting*
- *All Spiritual Organizations to meet after the refreshments to plan and practice for the Parish Night 2026*

LIVE streaming: All services are Live Streamed and are available.

Holy Liturgical Text for this Sunday

We will be using the Taksa of Holy Fathers 'Mkanastha' this Sunday.

May the Gracious Lord keep us from all evil and heal the entire world.

Next Week

September 20, First Sunday after the Feast of the Cross

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Genesis 42:1-8, Hosea 5:1-5, Daniel 4:4-9, Isaiah 57:14-20
- NT: Acts 3:22-36, 1 Corinthians 2:10-13, Holy Gospel St Mark 13:30-37

Yours in Christ

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