

Dearly Beloved,

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

August 16, 2026, First Sunday after the Feast of Assumption

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Exodus 14:21-29, 1 Samuel 8:4-10, Isaiah 43:1-5
- NT: 1 John 2:22-29, Ephesians 6:10-17, Holy Gospel St Mark 10:35-45

Holy Gospel: St Mark 12:38-44

³⁵And James and John, the sons of Zeb'edee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." ³⁶And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" ³⁷And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." ³⁸But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" ³⁹And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." ⁴¹And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. ⁴²And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. ⁴³But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Reflections:

Jesus's ministry was to serve and to pay the cost of serving. It was not self-seeking. His ministry began humbly. Silently the disciples joined Him as He called out to them. They each had their own profiles in the beginning-some were fishermen, one was a tax collector, and others were into other jobs. Upon accepting Christ's call, they were leaving behind the known and were stepping into the unknown. A unique world of prayer, interactions, deeds, actions and miracles that they had not seen until His arrival. They did not know what to expect in this new realm.

In John's gospel, we see Christ's public ministry begin at the wedding in Cana. In Matthew, before the beatitudes, His fame had reached throughout Syria. In Mark, His miracle work started with healing a man who was tormented by an evil spirit. In Luke also, the healing of a possessed man had a profound impact. Shortly after the disciples were called, Christ's miracles began taking place. It was an era without the facilities that we use today such as the internet, online social media, news channels, etc. However, news spread, with people always travelling between towns and cities, which made it possible to share word rapidly and widely. Within a short span of time, the disciples realized the fame they were achieving. They must have enjoyed the adulation they received for walking around with Christ. They must have never experienced such kind of recognition previously. And this probably changed them thus causing them and their families to develop new ambitions for themselves that would probably give more meaning for giving up everything in the walk with the carpenter's son, Jesus of Nazareth.

The disciples felt the hype of their life everywhere. But it did not bring any monetary gains. They had to leave behind their work life. And their life needs were well taken care of by their master and by the

people around. They feasted well in various rich houses, and they must have received gifts shared out of gratitude in return for the miracles that their Lord performed. As more people joined the peripatetic group, they must have begun fearing about their own existence. Who would know whether there could be people with more caliber and efficiency, inviting their master's attention than they were able to do. That could be the reason for their mother (Matthew 20:20) or themselves (Mark 10:35) approaching Jesus asking for prominent positions in his more glorious future. It was not clear if they were asking for it in the afterlife. Their fame was visible to all as they rapidly attained it. It was possible for them to envision, with such rapidly growing popularity, that Christ would become the king and His disciples would be responsible for running the state.

On hearing their request, Jesus reminded them about the qualitative difference in two views, one is of the world and the other of the Lord. One is of the earth and the other is of heaven. Adam and Eve were created and placed in Paradise. They had to leave it to go to the world after disobedience and sin. The 'people of God' had to keep in mind the difference -of being within Paradise and living outside it.

Christ came so that we could return to this lost paradise. By yielding to worldly thoughts, it would never have been possible to reenter Eden. The disciples realized it later and worked the same way Jesus ministered and taught. As the children of Adam and Eve, children of the Heavenly Father, we need to be aware of the difference in having the mind of the world and the mind of the Lord. Who knows the mind of the Lord?! (Romans 11:34). Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is (Ephesians 5:17). May the Holy Spirit give us the wisdom and enable us to live His Will.

FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:

- **August 10, Mar Assassael the Martyr**
- **August 13, Mar Micah the Prophet**
- **August 15, Mar Ignatius Abded Masiha III, 111th anniversary, Kurkuma Dayara**
- **August 16, Mar Ivanios Hidayathullah, 333rd anniversary, Mulanthuruthy Church**

Upcoming Feasts & Events:

- **August 01-15, Lent of Theotokos and Feast of Dormition**
- **August 14, Friday, 06:30 pm Evening Prayer, 07:30 pm Devotional Address, 07:45 Benediction & Nerchavilampu**
- **August 15, Saturday, 09:00 am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Qurbana, Intercessory Prayer, Holy Procession, Benediction and Nerchavilampu**
- **August 15, India Independence**
- **August 30, Sunday, Onam Celebrations, Onasadya**
- **September 14, Feast of the Cross (Sleebe Perunnal)**
- **September 27, Sunday, Harvest Festival & Auction**

- **October 11, Sunday, Parish Night**
- **October 24, Saturday, OCYM Fest -Thaalam 2026**
- **November 07 Saturday & 08 Sunday, Feast of St Gregorios**

SDOF Soonoyo Retreat went well. Sincere thanks!

The retreat organized by SDOF on Friday went well with the prayerful participation of our members. We thank SDOF for initiating and coordinating the retreat. Thanks to all participants.

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 MEETINGS: Upcoming Prayer meeting schedules shall be updated soon.

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:

August 16, Sunday – in-person meetings/Events

. OCYM Monthly Meeting after refreshment

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

Holy Liturgical Text for this Sunday

We will be using the Taksas of Mar Isaac this Sunday.

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

Next Week

August 23, Second Sunday after the Feast of Assumption

Scriptural Readings:

- **OT: Genesis 3:1-12, Ecclesiastes 7:1-3, Psalm 12:1-9**
- **NT: 2 Peter 3:8-14, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, Holy Gospel St Luke 11:9-20**

Yours in Christ

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