



Class Structure

- 1: Lords Prayer English & Greek**
- 2: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation**
- 3: Info on the Ecumenical Council of the week**
- 4: History / Story about a Saint Marina**
- 5: Answer Questions in Class**
- 6: Read the Creed until learned by memory Greek & English**
- 7: Interactive board work**

2: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation

The Gospel for 10-23-2022

Luke 8:26-39 *(New King James Version)*

(Get a Student to Read) Ask who wants to read the Gospel

A Demon-Possessed Man Healed

26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee.

27 And when **He stepped out on the land**, there met Him **a certain man** from the city **who had demons for a long time**. And he wore **no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs**.

28 When he saw Jesus, **he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!”**

29 For He had **commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man**. For it had often **seized him**, and he was **kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles**; and he broke the bonds and was **driven by the demon into the wilderness**.

30 Jesus asked him, saying, “What is your name?” And he said, “**Legion**,” because **many demons** had entered him.

31 And **they begged** Him that He would **not command** them to go out into **the abyss**.

32 Now **a herd of many swine** was feeding there on the mountain. So **they begged Him** that He would permit them to **enter them**. And **He permitted them**.

33 Then **the demons** went out of the man and **entered the swine**, and **the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned**.

34 When those who **fed them saw what had happened**, they fled and **told it in the city and in the country**.

35 Then they **went out to see what had happened**, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, **sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind**. And **they were afraid**.

36 **They also who had seen it told them** by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed.

37 Then **the whole multitude** of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes **asked Him to depart from them**, for they were seized with **great fear**. And He got into the boat and returned.

38 Now **the man** from whom the demons had departed **begged Him that he might be with Him**. But Jesus sent him away, saying,

39 “**Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.**” And he **went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him**.

This gospel teaches us to stay focused on Jesus because he is the one who can heal our demons and put us back on the correct path to God. Jesus' power is greater than all the forces in the world. In the Gospel, Jesus didn't go out looking for demons, but when he came across a man possessed by them, he dealt with them immediately and severely. As Jesus **stepped out on the land** and met the demon-possessed man, the man **wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs**. The demons had brought him down so far from God that he was in Hell on earth, which can happen to us if we don't follow Christ. When the possessed man saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, “**What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!**” Three things happened intimately that showed us Jesus was God and ruler of all things. **First**, the man **fell down before Jesus**, fulfilling **Romans 14:11** “*As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.*” **Secondly**, he **confessed that Jesus was the son of God**, which Jesus did not want known yet. **Third**, I beg You, **do not torment me!** This showed that Jesus had the power of God over the demons in this man. Jesus **commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man**. Before even asking his name, he commanded the demons to come out. It was a sense of urgency because he loves us so much and had so much compassion for the man he commanded it immediately. He was so possessed by the demons that **he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles**, and it could not hold the demons back, and they drove the man where he did not want to go. When Jesus asked the man his name, the demons said, "Legion." Legion was a unit of the Roman army, numbering 5,000-6,000. This was a way they told Jesus how many demons were in the man. **They begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss**. The demons knew how bad the abyss was, which was known as the place where God confines demons. So they begged Jesus not to send them there and begged that He would **let them enter the herd of swine**. As you see here, demons do not even have the ability to possess swine, which in those days were considered unclean animals. It was logical that unclean spirits sought out unclean things like the swine. At this point, the demons thought they were getting what they wanted and were going to a better place, but **the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned**, ending up in the abyss anyway. When we follow God's will and not our own, the result will always keep us from spiritual bondage. If the demons could not enter the swine without permission, how do they

get into people? People let them in threw their actions or deception. The demon's goal is to lead our souls to Hell, and they will trick us and deceive us to give them permission to do so. The way we avoid this is to follow Christ. Do the things that leads us to God and keeps us from the evil one. Daily prayer, reading the Bible, and compassion toward your neighbor is a good start. Christ gives us free will to do what we want. In the Church, He has given us the sacrament of confession, when a sin is forgiven in confession, that gives a clean slate to start over and move closer to God. If we don't ask for forgiveness, that is more spiritual baggage we will be carrying. When those who **fed the swine saw what had happened**, they fled and **told it in the city and in the country**. They went to tell everyone what had happened, not because of the miracle for healing the demon-possessed man, but because of all the swine that died. In this part of the story everyone came to see what happened, because the pigs made them a lot of money and now they were gone. When they arrived, the man was healed, **sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind**. This showed us sitting at his feet that he was healed, he was attentive to listen to Jesus, he was a disciple of Christ now and wanted to follow Jesus. Those who were there and saw the miracle told those who came what happened, **and they were afraid**. When we are faced with Jesus, we can expect major changes in our life. From that point forward, we want be the same. We will follow him and grow closer to God, or we will do like the demons and ask him to leave. After the man was healed, he was grateful. He **begged Jesus that he might be with Him**, but **Jesus said "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you."** The man left and went **throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him**. Jesus doesn't always call everyone to do the same thing. It is important for us to listen carefully to what we have been called to do, so we can follow him and be one of his disciples. The one thing that Jesus has called us all to do as it says in **Luke 10:27 " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' "** By following this one commandment we will be on the correct path to heaven.

Ask questions about Gospel then explain it to the students

3: Info on the Ecumenical Council of the week

Intro to the Ecumenical Councils

In the history of Christianity, the **first seven ecumenical councils** include the following:

1	the First Council of Nicaea in 325
2	the First Council of Constantinople in 381
3	the Council of Ephesus in 431
4	the Council of Chalcedon in 451
5	the Second Council of Constantinople in 553
6	the Third Council of Constantinople from 680–681
	Quinisext Council of Trullo held in 692 (<i>not new but a continuation of 5th and 6th</i>)
7	the Second Council of Nicaea in 787

All of the seven councils were convened in Constantinople. (*modern-day Turkey*)

These seven events represented an attempt by **Church leaders** to reach an orthodox consensus, **restore peace and develop a unified Christendom**

The Council of Chalcedon in 451 (*Short Facts*)

1	The council convened in the city of Chalcedon , Bithynia from 8 October to 1 November 451 AD.
2	The council was attended by over 520 bishops or their representatives , making it the largest and best-documented of the first seven ecumenical councils .
3	The principal purpose of the council was to re-assert the teachings of the ecumenical Council of Ephesus against the heresies of Eutyches and Nestorius .
4	Such heresies attempted to dismantle and separate Christ's divine nature from his humanity (Nestorianism)
5	Nestorianism also tried to limit Christ as solely divine in nature (Monophysitism)

4: History / Story about a Saint Marina

St. Marina the Great Martyr & Vanquisher of Demon

<https://www.saintsophiadc.org/saint-marina-the-great-martyr-and-vanquisher-of-demons-2/>

Commemorated on July 17

Marina was **born in Southern Anatolia, specifically from Pisidia in Antioch**, at the end of the **third century during the reign of Claudius II (268-270)**. She was the only **daughter of noble pagan parents**.

When she was **five years old her mother died** (some sources say she died shortly after childbirth), and since **her father, Aidesios**, was too busy carrying out his duties as a **pagan priest** to care for her properly, he **turned her care over to a woman who happened to be a Christian**.

This **nanny lived** in a small town about **fifteen miles from where Marina was born**. Away from her father's **idols and blasphemous practices** her nanny **taught her about the Christian Faith**. As Marina increased in age, more so did she advance in knowledge, understanding, and compassion. Her faith in the Living God was so great that she desired the difficult path of Martyrdom. She told her father that she wished to become a Christian and to never marry so as to live a life of virginity. Her father despised her for her faith and disowned her as his daughter.

A **new governor named Olymbrios** was elected for the region and in time began a **persecution against all Christians in the area**. One day he caught a **glimpse of the very beautiful fifteen year old Marina with her nanny**. The Imperial Governor Olymbrios, seeing her great beauty, **desired her for his wife**. When asked her name, homeland, and faith, Marina answered: **"My name is Marina; I am the offspring of Pisidia; I call upon the Name of my Lord Jesus Christ."** **Upon learning that she was a Christian, Olymbrios tried to dissuade her by flatteries, and by threats of torture.**

"Nothing Will Separate Me from Christ"

Marina frankly replied to the man: **"Have no vain hope for me, O governor, that I might cower before any number of torments. Nothing will separate me from Christ – neither affliction, famine, fire, sword, nor any other harsh tribulation – not even a violent and very painful death.** Think not that you will entice me with honors, gold or other wealth, because all these things are perishable and temporal.

The soul, by the grace of God, is immortal and desires eternity. For this reason, we, the Christians, wisely disdain these fleeting luxuries and enjoyments. We endure the sorrow and distress of the day that we might attain to everlasting life and eternal rest after our repose. **If you think that I lie, here I am, try me, so you will know by deed the truth. Strike me, slay me,**

burn me, suffocate or test me with ten thousand torments. As much as you will worsen the punishment, so much more will Christ glorify me in the future life and blessedness.

Many times in this life Christ grants us a small consolation as a pledge of that future exaltation. He draws us out of the depths of the sea, or rescues us from fire, or saves us from other torments, to your shame and condemnation. Therefore, I do not sorrow in this transient life. Readily I give my body to death, for my deathless God and Master, as the Sinless One, out of love for me, was crucified.”

This rejection infuriated the governor and he put her to harsh torture so all the beauty of her body was disfigured. Not only the public sorrowed and wept and suffered due to her troubles but even **the governor himself, unable to bear the horror of these tortures, hid his face in his hands. As broken up and destroyed as her body was, more so was her soul renewed and brighter.**

“Great Is Your Faith, Marina”

Unshaken, she prayed with thanksgiving that the Lord count her worthy to be tormented for His love. As they tortured her, the Saint was looking up to heaven, and prayed: “To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O My God, I trust in you; let me not be ashamed; let not my enemies triumph over me. Indeed, let no one who waits on you be ashamed. Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause. Show me your ways, O Lord. Teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation. On You I wait all day. Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving kindnesses, for they have been from of old. For I withstand these pains because I confess Your holy name. Send Your mercy and compassion to me so my grief will become joy.”

As the Saint was chanting and praising the Lord, **the soldiers were beating her so severely that her flesh was torn and her blood flew profusely.** The Archangel Michael, then, appeared to her and said to her: **“Great is your faith, Marina.** Have more strength, for it is by your good confession that your soul will survive, and **you will gain the holy baptism.”**

The ruler ordered that Marina be thrown in prison. **While she prayed there the Archangel Michael again came to comfort her and healed her of all her wounds.** Seeing this, the governor was amazed. He told her that he was sure then that she was a great magician. She said: **“I am not a magician, but I am a worshipper of Jesus Christ. Now your defiled helpless idols have been exposed.”**

The ruler was enraged. He ordered to saw her flesh with iron saws, and to cut her skin with knives. When he thought that she was dead, he ordered his soldiers to put her body back in prison until she rotted. **Archangel Michael appeared to her again, strengthened her, and repeated what he said to her before.** He, then, **Crossed her, cured her and disappeared.**

The Hammer of Saint Marina

A malicious demon, beholding that his servant, Olymbrios, could not vanquish one young woman and make her fall down before the idols of demons, became desperate and wished to test her himself. Taking on a dark and dragon-like guise, a demon appeared to Marina in the prison to frighten her. **Fearlessly Christ's athlete seized him by the hair and, finding a hammer, beat him to the ground, completely humbling him. A great light appeared and illuminated the entire prison. All of Marina's wounds were completely healed and not even a trace of scarring remained on her body.** It is for this reason that Saint Marina often holds a hammer and is sometimes depicted beating on a demon in her icons.

Baptized in Water and in Blood

The demented governor tortured her the next day by fire and water but Marina endured it all as if not in her own body. The ruler gave his orders to tie her to a pole and burn her. They did. Then he ordered that they tie her hands and legs, and put her in boiling water. **When she was in the water, St. Marina looked up to heaven and said: "O God who dwells in heaven, I ask You to untie me, and to make this water a baptism for me.** Dress me with the robe of salvation through it. Take away from me the old man and put on me the new man. **Make me, with this baptism, worthy to inherit the life eternal, and make my faith steadfast."** A great earthquake then shook the place, Marina's ties were loosened, and she immersed herself in the water three times in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. She came out of the water praising God. A voice came from heaven, and all the people who were gathered there heard it. The voice said: **"You are blessed, Marina. You were baptized, and became worthy of the crown of virginity."** Many of those who witnessed these events declared their faith, became Christians and were baptized. **The ruler ordered all of them to be killed. They were beheaded, and gained the wreath of martyrdom. It is estimated that they numbered in the thousands.**

Seeing that he could not overcome the Saint, the wicked governor finally sentenced Marina to death by beheading. **She was beheaded at the age of fifteen in the time of Diocletian (284-305),** but is numbered with the armies of martyrs, and remains alive in soul and power in heaven and on earth.

~Taken from *Mystagogy: The Weblog of John Sanidopoulos*:

<http://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2009/07/saint-marina-great-martyr-role-model.html>.

Apolytikion of Great Martyr Marina

Fourth Tone

O Lord Jesus, unto Thee Thy lamb doth cry with a great voice: O my Bridegroom, Thee I love; and seeking Thee, I now contest, and with Thy baptism am crucified and buried. I suffer for Thy sake, that I may reign with Thee; for Thy sake I die, that I may live in Thee: accept me offered out of longing to Thee as a spotless sacrifice. Lord, save our souls through her intercessions, since Thou art great in mercy.

Kontakion of Great Martyr Marina

Third Tone

Adorned with the beauty of Purity, O Virgin; crowned with the stigmata of martyrdom; stained with the blood of your struggles; and brilliantly radiant with healing wonders, piously, O Marina, you received the trophy of victory for your struggles.

Tell the class a few recent miracles about St Marina

Boy with Leukemia Oct 2000
Miracle after Priest Sermon

5: Answer Questions in Class

6: Read the Creed until learned by memory Greek & English

7: Interactive board work until bell rings