

We Christians of the latter times, are also charged, who are living in Christian countries, most of us, because also many of our brothers are becoming martyrs for Christ in enmitous surroundings, while we have the grievous privilege to be informed by hearing and seeing on the Internet what is going on and not only, but our ears and eyes gradually get use to such events, obtaining the most harmful apathy, synonymous to spiritual "senselessness".

Let us learn to leave ourselves to Christ, just as a thread is passed through the needle and allows itself to this to a perfect degree. Then Christ takes the needle and, on the canvas of History, weaves the wonderful handicraft of the life of each one of us, who in part we admire here, however we enjoy it fully in his kingdom.

Archim. E. T

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2017 PALM SUNDAY *The Holy Martyr Eupsychius of Caesarea, Vadim the Righteous of Persia, Raphael, Nicholas, Irene, & Olympias of Mytilene*

TONE OF THE WEEK *Tone One*

EOTHINON : *Ninth Orthros Gospel*

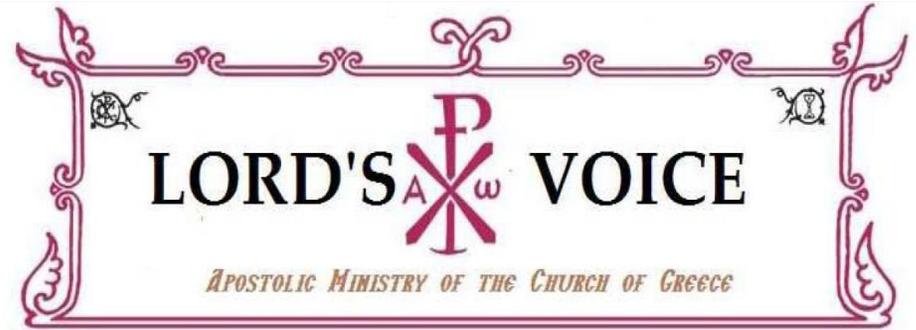
EPISTLE: *St. Paul's Letter to Philippians 4:4-9*

GOSPEL: *John 12:1-18*

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2017 GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA, *Agape, Chionia, and Irene, the Holy Martyrs, Leonidas and Charissa, Nike, Galene, Kallida, Nounenchia, Vasilissa, and Theodora the Martyrs*

EPISTLE: *Acts of Apostoles 1:1-8*

GOSPEL: *John 1:1-17*



65TH YEAR

April 9 2017

PAMPHLET # 15 (3332)

JOYOUS AND CAREFREE IN CHRIST

In today's Epistle passage, brethren, the ethos is described embossed, that ought to distinguish us Christians in our daily life, but also towards the challenges of the times, which are anything other than easy to scorn and few.

"Rejoice!"

It is the phrase that Christ used quite a few times when he was addressing his disciples -mainly- but also more generally to all who are listening. Joy is the condition generally that ought to characterize Christians who live Christand with Christ. Allowing to Christ his entrance into our heart, imitating Paul, who was saying that it is not he who lives, but Christ lives in him, we merely ought to rejoice, rather we would say that this joy of Christ "exudes from within us" and when we say "rejoice" between us, this expression may be heard both exhortatively, as well as certifyingly. And joy and kindness comprise touchings of the uncreated grace of Christ, which brighten and man, they make him light-formed and are given, through their bearer, who is the believer himself, to other people, of whom whoever is receptive, they also rejoice in the kingdom of God.

ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9

BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

Struggling and liturgized. With prayer, with fasting, with gratitude, with doxology, with peace of hearts, patience and god-pleasing stubbornness in the spiritual battle, with chastity, righteousness, with good and praise-worthy thoughts.

Do not have anxiety about anything, the Lord is near

Thus the Church lives. If in the trials, which she considers causes of joy, as Saint James also says in his Catholic epistle, he rejoices and he glorifies its head, who is Christ. The sense of the real closeness of the Lord, is that which distinguishes the ecclesiastical person from the religionists or otherwise the religious person, who tries to satiate his hunger with various ideas and psychological tricks, and who is lead and born "in the name" of the concepts of his brain.

So that closeness of the Lord is a cause of joy and carefreeness because it is incarnate eschatology. The believers are not startled by eschatological scenarios, very widespread in our

age, precisely because without at all lowering the sign of ceaseless prayer and unlesened attention, they entrust their lives into the hands of Christ and of his Church: "let us commit our whole life unto Christ our God". Are we ready to depart? Then we are capable of a more correct "activity" towards the eschatological challenges. The unmeasured hecklings and talks of danger show that we're both unready and making a lot of noise, precisely in order to cover this eschatological deficiency of ours. Furthermore thus also a certain thought of haughtiness is revealed, that "we" understand things and signs which the many do not "grasp"!

Christ told us to seek the daily bread "today" and he did not speak about tomorrow, precisely because it is unknown. Even though he spoke about signs, when he was asked about the "when", he avoided defining years and times, rendering, in a human manner, this knowledge to his Father so that we're not curious. Psychologically all this "activity" concerning the last times is interpreted by the fact that every age claims for its own self the title of the last time, consequently our own also.

"These things that you see in me, these things do ye"

Fearful is the saying of the Apostle Paul here, brethren! It shows that he who is speaking is a living moulding furnace of Grace. His faith, the trials he underwent, his mournful prayers, his crying in the effort to imprint Christ in the hearts of his spiritual children and the huge trials and oppositions of the people of darkness that inundated him many times, without in the end bending his train of thought, made him capable of articulating such a great spiritual saying. There don't exist "dark areas of personality" here. The whole content of the life of the soul has ascended before the Light of Christ: whatever genuine remained, whatever burnable, became burned up by the divine fire.