

The manner with which she describes her flaming thirst for the living water is stunning. When she finally quenched her thirst, by studying the Holy Scripture and the Fathers of the Church, and entering conscientiously inside the Church, in two words she describes what she felt: "I was dead and I came alive again. I was lost and I was found". And she concludes, verifying the prophecy of Christ about those who are satiated with the living water: "now, when I'm speaking to my peers in the hope that they will escape from the dryness of the deserts, and will turn to the springs of true life, I observe that they are listening with intensity and attention. They are interested with genuineness for God. They are awaiting Him."

How many souls "as waterless land" are waiting to quench their thirst with the dew of the Holy Spirit, which ought to be dripping richly from our life and words, since in every Divine Liturgy we're satiated by the "grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit" (2 Cor. 13:13)!

Archim. B. L.

SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2018 *HOLY PENTECOST, The Holy Hieromartyr Helladius, John the Russian of Evia, Theodora the Virgin-martyr & Didymos the Martyr, Venerable Bede .*

tone of the week :

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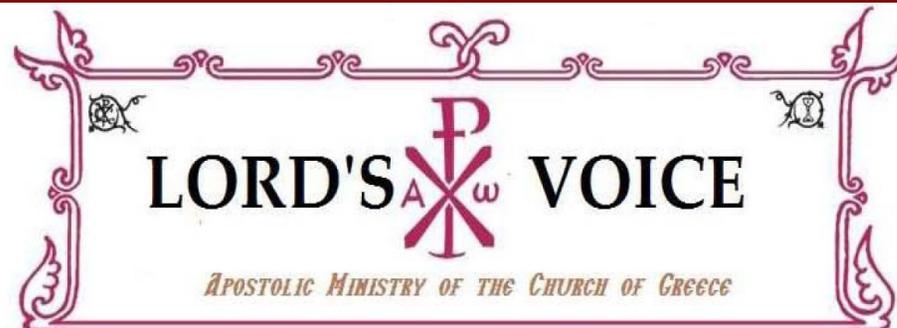
EPISTLE READING: Acts of Apostles Acts 2:1-11

GOSPEL READING: John 7:37-52; 8:12

NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2018 *The Sunday of All Saints , Lucillian of Byzantium, 4 martyred Youths and Paula the Virgin , Athanasios the Wonderworker, Kevin, Abbot of Glendalough*

EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 11:33-40;12:1-2

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30



66TH YEAR MAY 27 2018 PAMPHLET #21 (3391)

THE HOLY SPIRIT, LIVING NOETIC SPRING

Today's feast is chief! It is the birthday of the Church. Because the event of Pentecost is not described in the sacred Gospels but in the Book of Acts, the Church selects the gospel passage with an event from the life of Christ, which occurred on the last day of the Hebrew Pentecost. On that day, the Jews would go to draw water from the pool of Siloam, which afterwards they would pour as a libation on the altar of holocausts. And the happiness of the multitude was such, that the rabbis used to say that, whoever did not live this ritual, does not know what joy is.

Are you thirsting truly?

On this so joyous day, Christ, whereas He used to teach sitting, not only stood up, but He also shouted loudly: if someone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Through him, who believes in me, living rivers of water will flow". And the Evangelist John explains that Jesus said this, meaning the Holy Spirit, which, whoever would believe in him, would receive. Because as of yet, they did not have the Holy Spirit, because Jesus had not yet been glorified" with His Resurrection and Ascension to the heavens. The prophets, of course, and all the righteous of the Old Testament, according to Saint Cyril of Alexandria, "had received rich illumination of the Holy Spirit, which led them to the knowledge of God and revealed to them the future things. With Pentecost,

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 7:37-52;8:12

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

however, the capability was given to us, not simply for us to receive some illumination of the Holy Spirit, but the complete and total indwelling of the Holy Spirit inside us, resulting in us being able to become temples of God!"

To this honor and glory, Christ calls us, prophesying in today's passage, the event of Pentecost, and reveals to us three big truths:

Three truths

The first truth is that He gives the Holy Spirit, which- as He says elsewhere more clearly – “proceeds from the Father” but “is sent” through Him, in other words, the Son (John 15:26). He asked his Father to give us “another Comforter” (14:16) in order to lead us “into all the truth” (16:13) and to remain with us “unto the ages”.

The second truth is that, as Saint John Chrysostom explains, Christ does not give anyone the Holy Spirit by force. He gives it only to whoever has much eagerness and is burning by the desire to receive it”. A basic presupposition for obtaining this great gift, is man's personal thirst. His completely free seeking.

And the third truth, that refers to the results and to the fruits of this gift: not only is whoever fills with the Holy Spirit, quenched, but rivers of living water pour forth from him, in order to quench others as well. The life of the Church is full of examples of people, who were quenched by this water, whereas before they were literally “in the middle of the desert”.

“In the middle of the desert”

With this title, an American Jewish woman, Marjorie Corban presented her experience, who at the age of 18 years old converted to Orthodoxy. A little before being baptized she wrote: “it is easy for you to condemn us for the fact that we don't believe in anything and for our, out of control, behavior. The tasteless ideologies and the trust in logic don't interest us anymore. We don't believe in simple answers. We want something more. We want everything. We want, not something that we are able to analyze, but something that we are able to live. We're seeking personal encounter with God and with man. We don't believe in cheap happiness, in the little better, in moderate joys. Either everything or nothing! And if now we have gotten stuck on the nothing, it is precisely because we are waiting for the everything!”