

## The deification of the “ego”

The third thing that the enemies of men are “his own people” (Mt. 10:36). The weakness many times, both our own as well as of other Christians, to understand one another. To support one another. To have a common course. To orient life to Christ and to love. Each one sees his own self thinking differently. Not being in a position to hear his brother. Being interested only in his own things, without being in a position to want to share with the other person, whatever is burdening him, but also at the same moment, to pick up a bit from the burden that is burdening the others. Because, here is also the center of sin. That we are being concerned only for the “ego”. And this concern, fills us with passions, evils and disappointment. Because we are starting off from the others, and not seeing our own fault.

So the Christ of the Church, for each one of us comprises a challenge. Let us be seeking Him!

Fr. T. M.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2020 THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR IN THE TEMPLE,** *Gabriel the New Martyr of Constantinople, Jordan the New Martyr, Agathodoros the Martyr of Cappadocia.*

**-tone of the week :** *Plagal Fourth Tone*

**EOTHINON :**

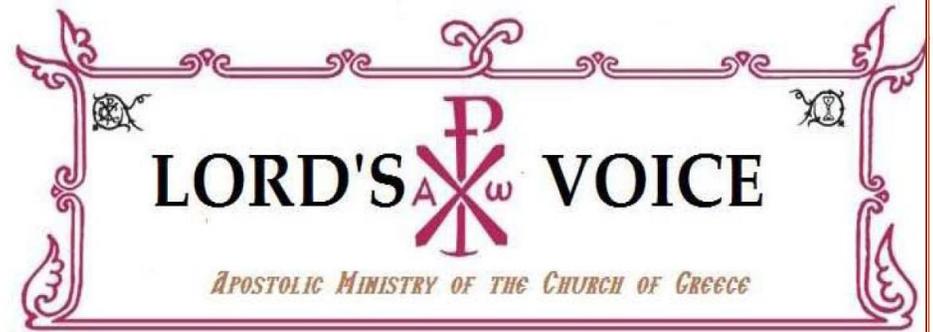
**EPISTLE READING:** *St. Paul's First Letter to Hebrews 7:7-17*

**GOSPEL READING:** *Luke 2:22-40*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 09, 2020 SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE: TRIODION BEGINS, TODAY ,** *Leavetaking of the Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple , Nicephoros the Martyr of Antioch , Markellos, Philagrius, & Pankratios the Hieromartyrs, Teilo, Bishop of Llandaff.*

**EPISTLE READING:** *St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15*

**GOSPEL READING:** *Luke 18:10-14*



68<sup>TH</sup> YEAR      FEBRUARY 2, 2020      PAMPHLET #05 (3479)

## WHO IS CHRIST

One of the questions that concerned and concerns humanity is that which deals with who is Christ truly. This question, the Lord himself first posed to His disciples: “You, who you say that I am?” (Mt. 16:14-15). The question is repeated. People consider Him a distinct personality, who taught love and offered social work to the world, founded a religion, from which a person receives consolation in difficult moments of his life, he enjoys customs and traditions, receives financial and social help and support. Some consider that Christ and the Church are remnants of a past, which concerns the private life of each one, and the State should not be supporting it.

### The Godman

For us however, Christ was, is and will be present. If we wish to believe in Him, we are called to remember three points of His own identity, which make Him, according to the word of Symeon the Godbearer at the Presentation, “a disputed sign” (Lk. 2:34). The same with whoever is following him.

## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (LUKE 2:22-40)

At that time, the parents brought the child Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Symeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

"Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; and Symeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city,

Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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The first that He Himself is the Godman. This means that our human nature communes with the Divine one in His person. We do not believe in an idea, in a preaching, in a teaching about God, but in God Himself who is a person, who took on the human hypostasis and leads us to theosis, to eternal communion with Him in the life of the Church. However for this road to become an experience, we need to defeat the temptations of logic and of the senses. "I don't see God". "God is a creation of the human mind". These are two sentences that proceed from the mouths and the hearts of many people today. They don't see His presence in the life of the Church, in the manner of holiness, in the joy that faith brings and they transport their rejection.

## The martyrdom that contains joy

The second thing that He did not promise any authority for us. The path in which we are called to proceed was and is a martyrdom, if we accept it. A martyrdom from the attacks of the thoughts of doubt. From the hate of people toward Him, on account of the devil, and from the transporting of this hate to us also. From our own difficulty to choose the path of forgiveness, of not accounting and of not rejecting others. From the attacks of death which make us question "where God is?" From the agonies that the daily cares and the breaking up from time add to us. From the attacks of the powerful ones of this world. It is a martyrdom of loneliness in an age that does not want God. However, this martyrdom contains the joy of His own support. Of His own illumination. Of His own presence, that gives us the capability of enduring. So long as we are seeking Him and trusting in Him.