

Gospel and to offer to our fellow man its message. We were given faith in the resurrected Lord as meaning and hope. We are called to not be defeated by the corruption that sin and time bring about, but to hold the freshness of knowing in whom we believe. And all these things, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, which Christ offered to His disciples and to all the Christians. With the power of the peaceful heart which the Resurrection brings, and which the life of the Church validates.

The Apostle Thomas was missing on the day of the Resurrection. He doubted it. He was given eight days, in which, in the end, he found the way and believed, after with longing he awaited the meeting, even if he had to grasp the Lord or, at least, see Him. He gave however, a new meaning to His own time. And he becomes a model for us also, so that we may be able, in the end, to keep the Resurrection in our heart and life!

Fr. T. M.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020 THOMAS SUNDAY *Basil the Holy Martyr Bishop of Amasea, Glaphyra the Righteous, Justa the Nun*

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EPISTLE READING : *Acts of the Apostles 5:12-20*

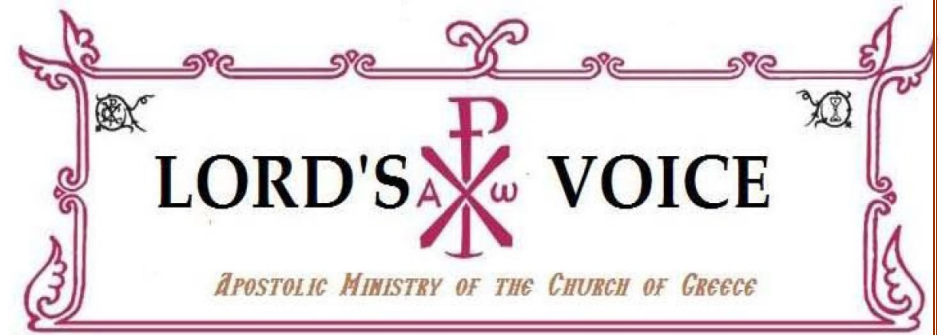
GOSPEL READING: *John 20:19-31*

SUNDAY, MAY 03, 2020 , SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-

BEARING WOMEN, *The Holy Martyrs Timothy and Maura Peter the Wonderworker , Xenia of Kalamata the Great Martyr, Father Theodosius, Abbot of Kiev Caves Lavra , Ahmet the Calligrapher & Martyr Theophan, Bishop of Peritheorion , Oikoumenios the Wonderworker, Bishop of Trikka*

EPISTLE READING : *Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7*

GOSPEL READING: *Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8*



68TH YEAR APRIL 26 2020 PAMPHLET #17 (3491)

AFTER EIGHT DAYS”

The Resurrection of Christ gives us the opportunity to again see, aside from other things, the meaning of time in our life also. Time comprises a friend and an enemy for man. Each one of us grows up, develops, creates, gives birth, and may find meaning and happiness in time. Time, however, comprises the bearer of corruption in man both from nature and from sin. As it passes, it leaves incurable marks. It makes man a “big wound” (Doxastikon of Vespers of Sunday of Thomas). The Resurrection of Christ makes us see time differently. Time henceforth, is not an enemy, but a blessing for man. Man is able in it to live according to Christ, to love, to utilize his gifts, to find joy and hope through faith. Even corruption henceforth, does not comprise a sign of despair, but is abolished through the Resurrection. Our body may continue to bear the signs of death, of old age, of sin, however, death is not the final victor. It becomes a passage to eternity.

The marks of defeated death

In the resurrected body of Christ, the marks of death, the print of the nails and the speared side remain visible. The body itself, however, has defeated death, but also the blameless.

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (JOHN 20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

passions of this life, hunger, thirst, toil, even also of the dimension of time and of space. They are not bound by evil. The resurrected Christ bears in His being, all of human nature. He became the first born from the dead and granted us to surpass deadness. Whoever believes in Him, communes Him in

the mystery of the Divine Eucharist, hears His word and lives the love that He brought us, as a journey of eternal life, he also defeats death and its corruption, even if he tastes it as Christ did

Faith, the consolation of the disciples

A further sign of this new reality is the word of the Evangelist John: "after eight days the disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Jesus comes, while the doors were closed and he stood among them" (John 20:26-27). For eight days Christ was not appearing to His disciples. For eight days only faith in Him was the only consolation of the disciples. Christ allows time to pass, because He wanted to prepare His disciples for His Ascension and because henceforth, He will not be visible to people through their senses. He gives time to His disciples for them to detach themselves from the certainty that He would be solving all their problems. It's necessary for them to undertake the responsibility to proclaim the Gospel of the Resurrection. Christ will always be with them, not however, in the way that they knew. Toil is henceforth needed, for time to become love. Faith, for joy to be captured. The mission of preaching the Gospel, so that they can be fulfilling His will and be feeling Him present. The remembrance of His presence through partaking His body and blood.

The victory over corruption

This "after eight days" is given also to each one of us in the resurrectional climate, as an opportunity for us to understand who truly Christ is for us. The joy of the Resurrection was given to us. However, we are called to not lose it, but to capture it in our heart, believing in it. We were given the capability to set out a new life. We are called to work on the