

people, leaving -moral, atmospheric, social pollution - devouring society. It is they who have handed over their souls to death and distribute this death with their authority, with their pen, with the keys of their computer, with their image, with their money, with every type of weapon. But mainly, with their disbelief and atheism.

The joy of eternity

Just like Joseph, we are called to offer to Christ, the seemingly defeated one on the cross, the expectation of His Kingdom. Our love and our faith in Him, in the manner of care and prayer. Only that He Himself does not need it, but His brethren, in other words, our fellow men. So, let us do our struggle, "awaiting the Kingdom of God", to imitate Joseph of Arimathea, and let us share the joy of the resurrection, the joy of eternity. Christ is risen!

Fr. T. M.

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 Triikka

TONE OF THE WEEK : *Second Tone*

EOTHINON : *Fourth Eothinon*

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

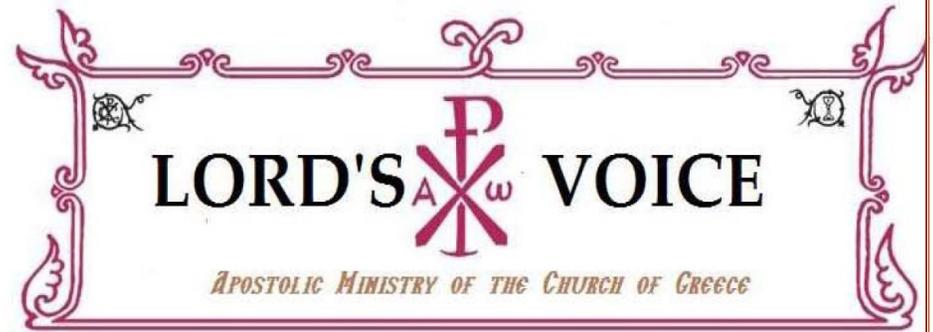
GOSPEL READING: *Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8*

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2020, SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Simon the Zealot & Apostle, Laurence of Egypt, Isodora of Egypt

EPISTLE READING : *Acts of the Apostles 9:32-42*

GOSPEL READING: *John 5:1-15*



68TH YEAR MAY 03 2020 PAMPHLET #18 (3492)

THE HOPE BEARING PRESENCE OF THE RESURRECTED ONE

History is not always written by those who seem important. When the circumstance calls for it, people who do not have a name in society, have not done big achievements, whose life is not known to the many, often undertake initiatives, there where the important ones feel weak to fight, and even to be revealed. The "noble Joseph" (Mark 15:42) is a characteristic example, a senator of the Jewish Sanhedrin, who descends from Arimathea, who did not belong to the narrow circle of the disciples of Christ. When the Lord died on the cross and His body was hung there, none of His disciples had the daring to ask for the body to bury it. Only Joseph dared and appeared to Pilate, in order to undertake to fulfill an obligation which did not belong to him. And just as he quietly came to the forefront, seeking the body, buying a winding sheet, placing it in the tomb and closing it with the stone, thus quietly he will withdraw, writing history at that difficult moment.

The motive of Joseph

The Gospel mentions Joseph's motive. "He was awaiting the Kingdom of God." He was waiting for the Kingdom of God to come. He had seekings. He had studied the Scripture. He was seeing the social, political and spiritual reality of his age, and furthermore, he was

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (MARK 15:43-47; 16:1-8)

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was laid.

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

fighting as a member of the Sanhedrin of the Jews to present his viewpoint. Mainly however, inside him, the expectation of the coming of the Messiah was living. He felt that life had no meaning only through human things, politics, matters, and cares. The Kingdom of God was needed to give meaning to the world. The crucifixion of Christ may have filled him with

disappointment. In him though, it seemed that he wanted, even with hopes for the Kingdom of God having been quenched, to give to Him in Whom he had believed, the final care. Probably he also wanted to heal his guilt pangs for the fact that he was not able, as a member of the Sanhedrin, to prevent the condemnation of Jesus. With this action of his, he knew that he was coming into a full clash with the rest of the members of the Sanhedrin, but he had also made his decision.

Joseph was the last person who cared for Jesus. Whatever he was not able to offer Him in life, he offered it to Him after death. And he withdraws. So that he could also learn, without the Gospel telling us something more, the message of the resurrection, and to ascertain that love and faith in the end, resurrected together with Christ. And just as the synaxaristes characteristically mentions – because his memory is celebrated also on July 31 every year -, he will become a preacher of the resurrection in Galatia of the West, and in other areas, witnessing about the experience of the Kingdom of God.

The quiet people

Many people had and have seekings. They await the Kingdom of God without making noise. They see the state of the world -the political, social, spiritual- and they feel that without Christ and the way of the Kingdom, love, forgiveness, care for others, the moral principles and values, the turning to the inner man, life has no meaning. They also see their own world, the passions, the thoughts, the sin, the separation from God and they understand that without the presence of the Lord, they are not able to find true joy. Mainly however, they see the death that prevails everywhere, both in the hearts of people as also in the world, and they seek hope in the Kingdom of God, in the Church, in the presence of the Resurrected One.

These people, among them we as well, are small for the world. Unimportant. Anonymous. The models, furthermore, of the age are noisy. It is they who deified their passions or fool people with their glory and majesty. It is they whose images parade everywhere. It is they who decide from the fates of the world, down to the fates of daily