

exit from our own self, from our habits, from the influence of time, which makes us feel old and satisfied with all that we do, holding for our own self. the privilege of salvation, which nevertheless, is given to us to share it, and not to settle in this.

We people remain attached to our earthly cares, to the “fish” which we must fish, in order to live. The presence of Christ in the boat of each one, in his life, in his journey, in his works, comprise an invitation of thanksgiving, of repentance and of humility, but also a cause of love and sharing. This is the essence of the life of the Church. The proof of joy and of gratitude for all that Christ gives us, according to our heart, but also according to what is truly to our advantage. The fishings of survival do not allow us to see our sinfulness, to do obedience to the word and to the will of Christ, who shows us that without His own presence “we receive nothing,” to share the joy that life has meaning when we share ourselves with the knowledge of “who we are”, the faith in Christ with other people. Let us follow this path!

Fr. T. M

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 2020, 1ST SUNDAY OF LUKE**

*Callistratus the Martyr & his 49 Companions, Mark, Aristarchos, and Zenon, Apostles of the 70, Akylina the New Martyr of Thessaloniki, Gideon the Righteous.*

**-tone of the week :** *Grave Tone*

**EOTHINON :** *Efirth Eothinon*

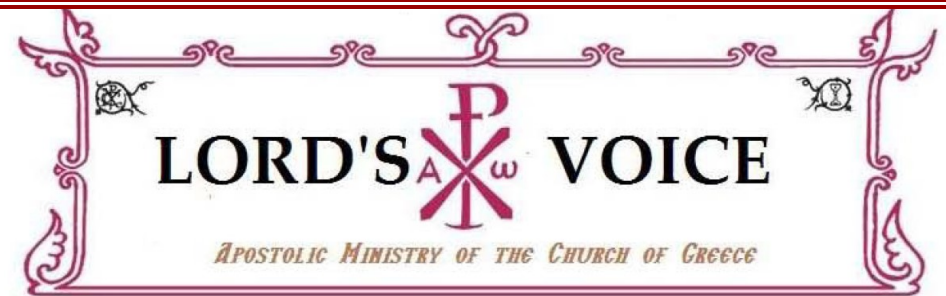
**EPISTLE READING :** *St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10*

**GOSPEL READING :** *Luke 5:1-11*

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 04 2020, 2ND SUNDAY OF LUKE** *Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens, Domnina the Martyr and her daughters, John the Hermit*

**EPISTLE READING :** *St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1*

**GOSPEL READING :** *Luke 6:31-36*



**68<sup>TH</sup> YEAR SEPTEMBER 27 2020 PAMPHLET # 39 (3513)**

## **I AM A SINFUL MAN**

On the first Sunday, immediately after the completion of the cycle of the feast of the Elevation of the Cross, our Church appoints that the excerpt from the Gospel of Luke be read, which refers to the calling of the first disciples by Christ. An analogous excerpt from the Gospel of Matthew, we read after the Sunday of All Saints. The Cross and holiness comprise for the Church the path to the Kingdom of God. And this path does not refer only to those who choose the way of life of the Apostles, dedicating themselves to the service of the people of God. It also refers to each person, who is called with his witness to speak about Christ to people and to give from his faith and from his love to Him, consolation to everyone who is related with him, coming out of his daily life, of his work, the relationships of his relatives, his program, in order to reveal Christ with his life, word and works.

### **Christ gives all that we need**

Christ goes up onto Peter's boat and teaches the people who are on the shore. When the teaching is completed, he urges Peter to cast his nets into the sea. He is obedient to the Lord's command, and casts the nets. He ascertains that, whereas at night, he got tired without any result, now both the nets of his own boat fill with fish, as well as that of his partners, resulting in both being

## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (LUKE 5:1-11)

At that time, as Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him

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in danger of sinking from the weight. And then Peter falls at the knees of Christ and cries out "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." (Luke 5:8), in order to receive from Christ, the calling to become his disciple, together with James and John, his partners, for them to struggle to become fishermen of men.

"I am a sinful man, O Lord." How many of us would cry out this phrase in the place of Peter? Do we recognize that the goods that are given to us are from the will of God, or do we believe that we have the right, because we are working, because we have gifts, because we are capable, because the others owe us, because the world revolves around us? We are living in a culture of rights, where each one of us

considers that the other one owes him. Not having self knowledge and not doing a self critique, we magnify our capabilities, and we seek to be the center of the world. We forget the "glory to God" and we believe only in our "ego".

### The sense of our weakness

Peter, before the power of God, senses his unworthiness. He is capable in his job, and he knows it well. Before Christ however, he realizes the miracle of God's presence in his life, and there all his capabilities and his knowledge crumble. The only thing that he feels, is his sinfulness. The filthiness of his soul. That he is not anything before Christ. He is not capable, nor worthy for the Lord to enter under the roof of his soul. And he seeks from Christ not to leave from his life, but that he not remain near him, because he is not able to endure the power of the godhead. How many times in our life, do we approach to commune of the immaculate mysteries, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, without feeling that we are sinful people. That the presence of Christ uncovers the magnitude of our spiritual weakness. And we approach with audacity and lack of knowledge. How many times do we demand from the Church, without feeling that to her we ought, primarily to deposit our sinfulness, to recognize our deficiencies and to deposit with trust not only the hope for wealth and for the replenishment of our material goods, but the thirst for repentance and humility.

### Our own calling

Peter's recognition of his sinfulness made him abandon everything and follow Christ. The Church calls us to also do this, to the measure feasible, and to the measure of our calling. For us to sense the responsibility to speak about Christ to our neighbor, with our prayer, with our word, with the works of love, but mainly with our