

visible signs, because faith is sufficient to counterbalance everything; for miracles are not needed for believers, but for the unbelievers ("for the signs are not for the believers, but for the unbelievers").

The manifestation of the truth of the Gospel

The innumerable miracles performed by the Apostles, the witnesses of the Resurrection of Christ, were a revelation of the Gospel for the consolidation of faith and love in Christ in the hearts of people. The healing of Aeneas and the resurrection of Tabitha reveal the miraculous word of the Risen Lord. Since then, the Church has not stopped, nor will she stop strengthening the faith of people, proclaiming that Jesus Christ is the life and the resurrection; our joy, healing, hope and expectation.

Archim. N.K

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023 SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC ,
Commemoration of the Precious Cross that appeared in the sky over Jerusalem in 351 A.D. Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem, Akakios the Centurion of Byzantium. The Holy Martyr Quadratus and those with him, our devout Father John Psychaites, the Confessor, the holy Martyr Maximus.

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

GOSPEL READING : *John 5:1-15;*

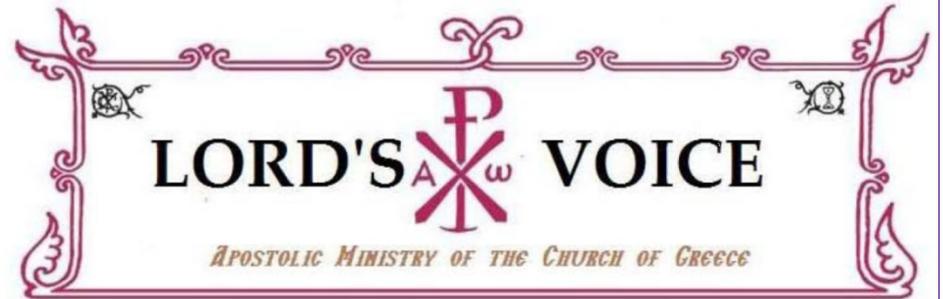
TONE OF THE WEEK : *Mode 4*

EOTHINON : *Eothinon 7*

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023 SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN, *Isidore the Martyr of Chios , The Holy Martyr Glyceria, Holy Hieromartyr Therapontus , Holy New Martyrs Mark and John, Sergios the Confessor , Alexandros the Martyr ,Pausikakos, Bishop of Synnada*

EPISTLE READING : *Acts of the Apostles 11:19-30*

GOSPEL READING : *John 4:5-42*



71ST YEAR MAY 7 2023 PAMPHLET # 19 (3649)

THE PURPOSE OF THE MIRACLE WORKING OF THE APOSTLES

In today's Epistle reading, two miraculous actions are recounted, that the Apostle Peter performed with the all-powerful power of the Holy Spirit. First, the healing of a paralytic, Aeneas, and then the resurrection from the dead of Tabitha, a blessed Christian woman who lived in Joppa and devoted herself to constant good works and almsgiving.

This woman did not live for herself, but for the poor, the widows, and orphans, and for them she worked tirelessly. However, death came to interrupt her offering. The sorrow of the faithful was great. Learning, however, about the recent miracle of Peter on the paralyzed Aeneas, and without any delay, they call him to them. And Peter comes, and kneeling, like Elijah and Elishah in similar cases, he prays and asks for the intervention of the Lord. His faith and prayer, as well as that of the Christians of Joppa, contributed to the resurrection of the dead Tabitha, a miracle that transcends human logic and every natural law. The primary purpose of the miracles of the Apostles was the manifestation and the offering of the life of the Risen Lord to people. That is why the Apostles always preached the Name

THE SUNDAY EPISTLE (ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 9:32-42)

In those days, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

of Jesus Christ, and promoted faith in the power of the divinity and of His infinite love. Because with faith and love, the union of man with God occurs, and thus, the miraculous visitation of God happens, as a foretaste of immortality and

of man's everlasting participation in the Kingdom of God. Therefore, miracles witness the person's freedom from the laws of nature, and the limitations of worldly necessity; they are "signs" of human communion with the freedom of the Spirit.

Love is higher than the miracles

The Apostle Paul, after writing to the Corinthians about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as the apostolic, the prophetic, the teaching, and the miracle-working gifts, recommends to them that their zeal turn, mainly, to the more important ones, the "better" gifts. "And I will show you a par excellence way" (1 Cor. 12:31); I'm showing you, he tells them, an even higher way. Which? That of love, for them to acquire the fullness and the authenticity of every other spiritual gift, with the aim of edifying the Body of the Church. Given that the charisms, as gifts of God, are not autonomous, but are shared by the Assembly of the faithful with the power of love, without which our participation in the mystery and the miracle of the Church is abolished on its own.

That is why the sacred Chrysostom, interpreting the above words of Paul, emphasizes that the greatest miracle is love, the root of all goods. And that if we exercise the love and ethos that flow from this, we shall have no need of any other miracle; as also because if we don't exercise it, we won't gain anything from the miracles. And expressing the faith and the position of the Church in relation to the subject of miracles, which, unfortunately, is not rarely misinterpreted and perverted with selfishness and exploitation, he says: "We, the faithful, have no need of