

to various demonic powers. However, the faithful person of the Church must remain vigilant in the face of organized proselytizing propaganda by heretics, he must study Orthodox books and consult the Bishop and the spiritual fathers of his parish.

Also, he must always bear in mind that the true Christian loves everyone, without conditions or limits, even the greatest sinner and heretic. We believers hate, turn away, reject sin and heresy, which we must not identify with the person of the heretic. Heresy is an invention of the devil; the heretic does not cease to be a creation of God. That's why let's not stop praying; "bring back the deceived ones and join them to your holy catholic and apostolic Church" (Liturgy of Basil the Great).

Archim. N.K

**SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF MATTHEW** ,  
**SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ECUMENICAL COUNCIL** , Athenogenes the Holy Martyr of Heracleopolis , Julia the Virgin-martyr of Carthage, 1,015 Martyrs in Pisidia, Helier the Hermit, Martyr of Jersey.

**EPISTLE READING** : St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15

**GOSPEL READING** : Matthew 5:14—19

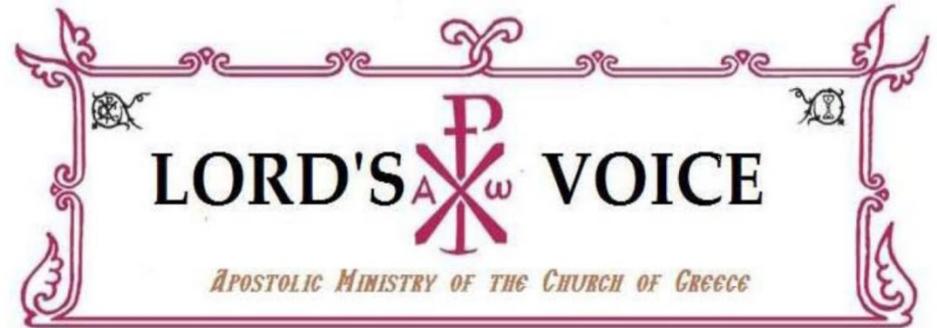
**TONE OF THE WEEK** : Plagal First Tone

**EOTHINON** : Sixth Eothinon

**SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF MATTHEW** ,  
Phocas the Holy Martyr, Bishop of Sinope , Ezekiel the Prophet , Pelagia the Righteous of Tinos , Trophimos & Theophilios and the 13 others martyred in Lycia , St. Anna of Leokadio , The Icons of the Most Holy Theotokos of Pochaevo ,Icon of the Mother of God.

**EPISTLE READING** : St. Paul's Letter to Romans 15:1-7

**GOSPEL READING** : Matthew 9:27—35



71<sup>ST</sup> YEAR JULY 16 2024 PAMPHLET # 29 (3659)

## OF THE APOSTOLIC TRADITIONS

During the ecclesiastical year, the Church celebrates the memory of the godbearing Fathers, who participated in Ecumenical Synods three times. On the seventh Sunday after Pascha, one Sunday in the month of October, and during today's Sunday, where we especially honor the Fathers, who comprised in Chalcedon (a coastal city of Bithynia in Asia Minor), in the year 451, the 4<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council against the Monophysites.

The Synod in question expressed the Orthodox faith and experience on the person of Christ. According to it, Christ is perfect God and perfect Man. He has two natures, the divine and the human ones, which were united unchangeably and unconfusedly, in His person, His hypostasis. Likewise, He has two wills and two energies that voluntarily submit to the divine will and energy.

The pastoral treatment of heresies

In order to understand the essence of heresy, we remind you that for Orthodoxy, spirituality, truth and life are inseparable realities; one presupposes the other. Truth and

## EPISTLE ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO TITUS 3:8-15

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.

All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

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life are first and foremost Jesus Christ, as He Himself told us: "I am the way and the truth and life" (John 14:6). Heresy means taking a part of the truth and putting it in the place of the whole. However, this action constitutes a perversion and alteration of the truth, and a loss of life.

The word of the Church about Christ is inextricably linked with the word about man's salvation. For example, if Christ is only perfect God and did not really take on the human nature, then man is not saved, since what is "unadopted" remains "unhealable", as St. Gregory the Theologian points out. If the Christ is only a

man, no matter how perfect and ideal he may be, he cannot save man, because this is God's work.

In the person of the true God and true Man, the Lord Jesus Christ, we have the true union of man with God, of the created with the uncreated. The Monophysites or Antichalcedonians accepted that Christ does not actually have two natures. As the second person of the Holy Trinity, He has only the divine nature, which has absorbed the human one.

Therefore, here we find the withdrawal of human nature from the life of God; the Orthodox belief that man's destiny is his union with God and his participation in the divine life, through the incarnation of the Son of God, i.e. the real adoption and deification of human nature, is called into question.

### **Our attitude towards heretics**

The Apostle Paul, in the present Epistle reading, teaches his disciple Titus, as every church pastor, that he ought to instruct the heretical person once and twice. This is not a simple exhortation, but a broader didactic effort aimed at making the heretic realize his error, to repent and accept the correct faith. Unfortunately, heretics exist in every era and especially in our times. And this, because the cultural and spiritual aphasia of the world leads the one who is subject to ignorance, self-centeredness and the irrational self-confidence to the not infrequent, subjugation to destructive parareligions and