

The presented proofs have the character of testimony of people who in their being lived and revealed the fact of the Resurrection of Christ. That is, the presence of Christ becomes evident through the testimony, the Gospel of the Apostles, so long as the faithful are vigilant in soul.

The Apostle does not stop confessing his unworthiness, because he was a persecutor of the Gospel and the Church. However, he says, by the grace of God, I am what I am; that is, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, a preacher of the Gospel, a witness of the Resurrection, dedicated to the ministry of the Church. The grace, power, and energy of the Risen One transformed his being and thus the former persecutor is persecuted for Christ and he is evangelizing the Gospel of salvation to every person who seeks Christ as the way, truth and life.

Archim. N.K

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 2023 TWELFTH SUNDAY OF**

**MATTHEW** *Pimen the Great, Holy Martyr Phanurius, Anthousa the Martyr, Poimen of Palestine, Hosisos the Confessor, Liverios, Pope of Rome, Monica,*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's First Letter to Corinthians 15:1-11*

**GOSPEL READING** : *Matthew 19:16—26*

**TONE OF THE WEEK** : *Third Tone*

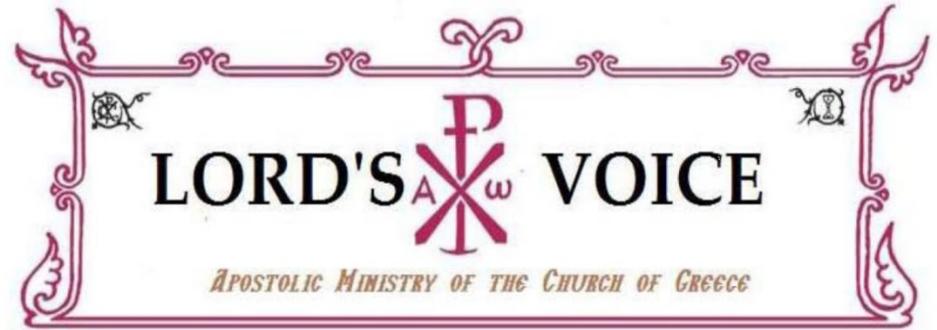
**EOTHINON** : *First Eothinon*

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 2023 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF**

**MATTHEW** *Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedeia ,Holy Father Theoctistus and his fellow struggler Euthymius the Great , Polydorus the Martyr of New Ephesus ,Translation of the relics of St. Nectarius the Wonderworker, Bishop of Pentopolis , Chariton the Martyr ,Phoebe the Deaconess*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Letter to Corinthians 16:13-24*

**GOSPEL READING** : *Matthew 21:33—42*



71<sup>ST</sup> YEAR AUGUST 27 2024 PAMPHLET # 35 (3665)

## THE GOSPEL, OUR GUIDE

Today's Epistle reading, like the entire Holy Scripture, touches basic truths about man's spiritual life. The Apostle Paul talks about the faith of Christians on death, burial and the Resurrection of Christ and, therefore, about the mystery of His incarnation. The reason to deal with this issue was the expression of doubts by some Corinthian believers regarding the resurrection of the dead.

That is why in verse 12, the one immediately following our passage, he writes: "So if we preach that Christ is risen, then how do some among us claim that there is no resurrection of the dead?". For the Apostle, the resurrection of the dead is the self-evident fruit of the Resurrection of Christ. Since the Resurrection is not an attribute or a human possibility, but it only befits Christ and it became possible also to man because of Christ.

## The delivery of the Gospel to the Church

The Apostle reminds the Corinthians of the glad tidings, "the Gospel" that he delivered to them with his preaching. He also reminds them that they accepted it, they remained firm in it, and with it they are saved, if they continue

**EPISTLE ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO CORINTHIANS**  
**15:1-11**

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast -- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

to hold fast to it, in the sense in which he preached it to them, "unless ye believed in vain," he points out to them

Their faith in Christ could end up in vain, without meaning and value, if they ultimately would disbelieve in the resurrection of the dead, which he had preached to them. Paul insists that with the Gospel, he handed over to the faithful what he himself had received from the disciples and Apostles of the Lord and, of course, from Christ himself. Because the Gospel is not a human invention, but a testimony of ecclesiastical experience and faith about the basic elements of life, of the teaching and work of Jesus Christ. Thus, Paul emphasizes the importance of the tradition that had already appeared in the

consciousness of the first Church. The perspective of tradition is so important that true faith can be recognized in two ways: with the authority of the Holy Scripture and then with the tradition of the Church, which basically consists in the correct interpretation of the Scripture.

**Dangers of misinterpreting of the Holy Scripture**

The Holy Scripture was and is being interpreted by many, even today, in different ways, so as to create the wrong impression that it can be given as many interpretations and meanings as there are people. However, the only interpretive key and means for the confirming and reveling the true meaning of the Holy Scripture is the living ecclesiastical tradition, as expressed by the Prophets, the Apostles and the Fathers. That is, as Orthodoxy and Orthopraxy. Therefore, tradition is for the Church to deliver throughout the ages and generations this same Lord Jesus Christ, with His divine truths and holy commandments, with the grace of the Mysteries (Sacraments) and His virtues.

Thus, the Church is understood as a tradition, a sacred and living heritage that extends unto the ages. The Orthodox Church has the consciousness that it preserves the tradition of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. The tradition is not the same as maintenance, because it is movement and life, while maintenance is stasis and immobility.

**Saving truths from the Resurrection of the Lord**

After Paul pointed out that Christ "died for our sins ... that he was buried, and that he will rise on the third day", he also quotes some of the appearances of the Resurrected One. The Lord appeared to the Disciples, especially to Peter, to five hundred brothers and last of all to Paul, when he was going to Damascus to persecute the Church.