

build His altar within us. And with repentance, prayer, love, forgiveness and, in general, with the struggle to keep the gospel commandments, we open the door of our soul to the Lord, who stands there, and kindly awaits our response. That is why Christ promised that He would make His and His Father's abode, the one who will love Him and keep His word, His commandments, which is life and revelation, the manifestation of God.

Therefore, in the temple of our being, let us offer our whole selves to God, as the Apostle writes in another of his epistles: "I am asking you to offer to God your whole self as a living, holy and acceptable sacrifice. Because this is the real spiritual worship" (Rom. 12,1).

Archim. N.K

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1 2023 2ND SUNDAY OF LUKE *The Holy Protection of the Theotokos, Ananias, Apostle of the 70 , Romanos the Melodist , John Koukouzelis the Psalti*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's 2nd Letter to Corinthians 6:16-18, 7:1*

GOSPEL READING : *Luke 6:31-36*

TONE OF THE WEEK : *Plagal Fourth Tone*

ETHINON : *Sixth Eothinon*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 2023 3RD SUNDAY OF LUKE *Pelagia the Righteous , Pelagia the Virgin-martyr of Antioch, Phillip, Bishop of Gortyna, Taisia the Harlot of Egypt*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's 2nd Letter to Corinthians 9:6-11,*

GOSPEL READING : *Luke 7:11-16*



71ST YEAR OCTOBER 1 2023 PAMPHLET # 40 (3670)

MAN, TEMPLE OF GOD

With the present Epistle passage, which comes from Paul's 2nd Epistle to the Corinthians, the Apostle teaches us the great theological truth that man is the temple of the living God. But what does he mean by this teaching? Let's try to approach it interpretively.

God is living and true

First of all, Paul calls God living, and true. And this, because God is life itself, in its fullness and greatness. He is the creator and granter of the gift of life to man. He is the Land of the living. And all who believe in Him do not perish, but have eternal life. Life that starts from the short-term present and extends to the eternity of God. And what does life mean for the believer? Life is above all, as the sacred Chrysostom says, that we hymn, and glorify God and proclaim the wonderful works of God to every man by works and words. The works of Christ's crucifactory love, of His light-bearing Resurrection, of His extreme

EPISTLE ST. PAUL'S 2ND LETTER TO CORINTHIANS

6:16-18, 7:1

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Humility, through which God does not cease to work out our salvation, that is, "to be with Him, forever well." When you hymn and glorify God, it means that you accept that life is His gift; and you thank Him, because He brought you from non-existence into being; and from existence to co-existence. Because no one exists on his own. Existence is determined by the relationship with God and one's fellow man.

The handmade Temple

The existence of the Christian Church constantly reminds us that the Man is par-excellence a temple of God. With architectural shapes, paintings, symbols and images, the Temple signifies the entire Church. It refers to the place and the way of manifestation of the Church as a communion of theosis. That's why the temple is also called a Church, that is, an invitation to every person to share in the crucified and resurrected life of Christ, which alone defeats death. The

central liturgical act of the Church is the Divine Eucharist. Thus, the life of the believer revolves around the Holy Altar Table, which is the heart of the Church, through which the Blood of Christ circulates in the members of His Body, in all believers.

At the holy Altar Table we deposit our life and our hope, our repentance for our sins and failures and from there, we wait for the grace and the cheerful Light that illuminates our inner darkness. The temple it is the "upper room", where Christ delivered the divine mystery of the Divine Eucharist. Every Holy Altar Table, the sacred Chrysostom points out, is the Table of the Mystical Supper "and has nothing (less) smaller. For it is not Christ who created that, while man creates this; He also creates this one. This is that upper room, wherein they were then; from here they went out to the Mount of Olives".

The believer, God's altar

Every believer who lives according to God is a temple and altar of God. This temple is located in the heart of man, that is, in the spiritual space of being, where God meets man. Certainly, Paul's teaching that man is God's temple, does not mean that this is achieved in a mechanistic way, i.e. without human cooperation.

A basic condition for the promotion of the believer into a temple of God is the continuous cultivation of faith and the activation and utilization of the other gifts we receive in the Church, such as of baptism, with which we are reborn in Christ and the Divine Eucharist, with which we become one body and one blood with Christ. Thus, we invite God to