

personality. She goes through difficulty, but always surpasses whatsoever trials, because her helmsman is not some man, but He the Godman Lord Jesus, Himself.

Living ecclesiastically

So it remains to us who are integrated through our Baptism and Chrismation in this godmanly Organism, in other words, the Church, to renew the grace which we then received, with our careful participation in communion of the body and blood of Christ, so that we have Him dwelling and remaining in our heart. He, not only will protect us constantly from the sea storms of the present life, but He will silence also the storms of the noetic sea of our heart, which is caused by our passionate and unrepentant life. When, however, we struggle, the outcome of the trials will be victorious and we as disciples of Christ will confess Him together with the unending choirs of those inscribed in the heavens and those costruggling on the earth, as true Son of God and our Savior.

Archim. E. T.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2014 9th Sunday of Matthew, Laurence the Holy Martyr & Archdeacon of Rome, Chitus of Athens, Bishop of Rome, Hippolytus the Martyr of Rome, Afterfeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..

tone of the week: Tone Plagal 4th **Eothinon** Nineth Eothinon

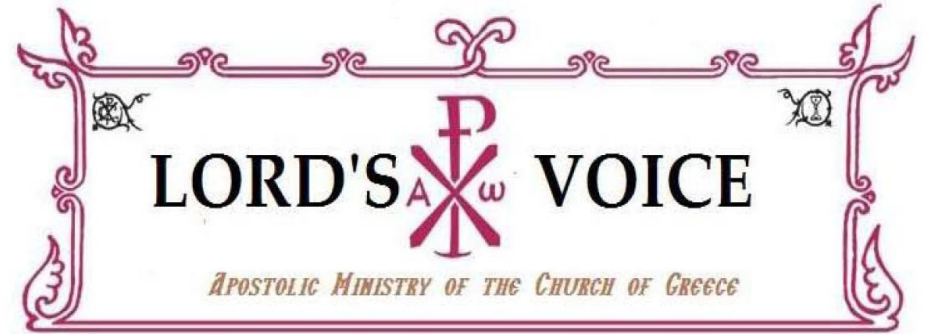
EPISTLE St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 3:9-17

GOSPEL Matthew 14:22-34

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2014 :10th Sunday of Matthew, Myron the Martyr of Cyzicus, Straton, Philip, Eutychian, & Cyprian the Martyrs of Nicomedeia, Afterfeast of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary

EPISTLE St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16

GOSPEL Matthew 17:14-23



62nd Year

AUGUST 10, 2014

Pamphlet # 32 (3193)

THE TRIALS OF LIFE AND CHRIST

Beloved brethren, after the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and the fish in Palestine and the satiation of the large crowd which was there, the crowd is delirious. They believe, based on this wondrous sign, that He can henceforth satisfy their every need and messianic expectation.

The Lord seeing that His spiritual work is in danger of being overlooked and misunderstood, takes His disciples far away to the lake and He Himself withdraws to solitude to pray, showing thus to us also that before or during every difficulty, trial or serious work, we should take refuge in prayer.

Christ's appearance

In the vortex of the storm and the darkness of the night Christ appears, knowing that His disciples are in danger. The disciples lose it thinking that it is a ghost, but He immediately tells them to not fear, to have courage because it is He their teacher who is standing next to them. Then Peter asks Him to walk upon the waters, precisely as Him. Christ invites him and Peter by grace walks upon the waters of the deep lake. So long as the Lord was the center of his attention, he was proceeding upon the waters without any obstacle. However as soon as his attention was

9th Sunday of Matthew

The Gospel of Matthew 14:22-34

At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they entered the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

moved to other thoughts, he began sinking resulting in him crying out "Oh Lord save me"! Immediately Christ holds him up and "brings him back", asking him why he showed weak faith and cowardice. Afterwards they enter the boat, where the disciples confess Christ as Son of God.

We should not tempt God. It would be at least naïve for us to ask from Him to make us able to walk upon the sea. Furthermore now something like that would have no meaning.

With His grace however we walk upon the waves of the present life and not only are we not drowned despite the whole struggle, but we also feel continually strengthened with Christ next to us. Even if there are times when during the battle we think that He is absent, He is always near us and stands by us. It is those moments when the sense of grace retreats in man's heart and he tastes the bitter waters of the passions, of the evil and perverted desires, inclinations and tendencies of his heart and feels that he is sinking in despair. Then he cries "with a loud cry and tears" to the only One who can save him and he comes and lifts him up granting him salvation from certain drowning.

"Christ is sleeping"

"Christ is sleeping" Christ "fell asleep" in other words, is a shocking phrase which Saint Gregory the Theologian uses in a human manner in order to describe precisely those moments when it seems that Christ, her head, is abandoning the noetic vessel of the Church. The Church is compared with the noetic boat and furthermore the Ark of Noah is one of its foreshadowings. Just as that Ark saved whoever was inside from the flood, thus also the noetic ship of the Church saves from the flood of sin.

The phrase of Saint Gregory from his epistle to the orator Eudoxios, refers to the temptations and the fearful adversities which the ship of the Church encountered on her way, to the point that the saint is frustrated saying: "the ship in the night, the torch nowhere, Christ is sleeping". It transports us precisely to the atmosphere of today's gospel message. But because the Church has been constructed upon the rock of the confession that Jesus is the true Son of God and furthermore it has been watered, due to this confession, with the sanctified blood of millions of martyrs "the gates of hades shall not prevail against her" (Mt. 16:18), according to the infallible mouth of Christ, she is not defeated and does not fear any worldly system and any worldly strong