

God would be dreadfully unjust if He judged whomsoever of us with His absolute holiness as the measure. So for this reason "He gave all judgment to the Son", so that the incarnate love of our Christ is our judge. And there the Saints come forth. Just as in today's reading, the Great High Priest Jesus Christ is projected, as the perfect model, but also the measure of judgment of the celebrated holy Hierarch Gregory the Theologian, in a similar manner as a measure of comparison, whatsoever Saint has a similar life with our own life, the Great Judge will use, in order to wipe out whatsoever justification and excuse of ours in our effort to blame our perchance failure in spiritual life. And we will be without defense because we will have before us fully alive, the proof of success, there where we failed.

Brethren, the Saints are our models in this life. They are the intercessors to the throne of God. They are the measures of our judgment. Let us love our Saints, so that they become for us familiar, older brothers, our fellow citizens in the Kingdom of the Heavens.

Archim. I. N.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2015 15TH SUNDAY OF LUKE, *Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople, The Synaxis of the New Martyrs of Russia*

TONE OF THE WEEK: Plagal of the Fourth Tone,

Eothinon 11th Eothinon

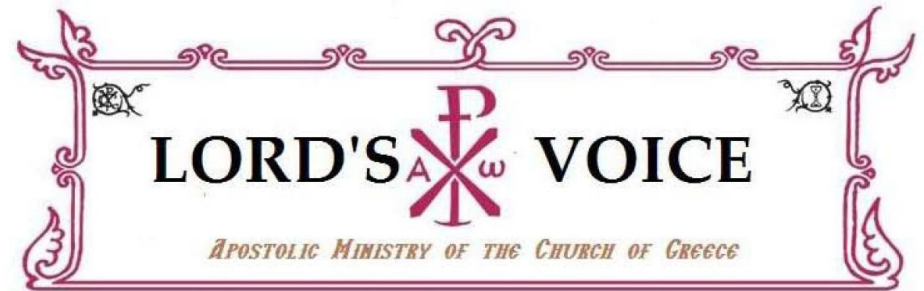
EPISTLE St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2

GOSPEL Luke 19:1-10

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2015 SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND

PHARISEE: *Triodion Begins Today, Forefeast of the Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple, Trypho the Martyr, Perpetua & her Companions, Timothy the Confessor, Bridget of Ireland, Our Holy Father Basil, Archbishop of Thessolonica, Anastasios the New Martyr of Nafplion.*

EPISTLE St. Paul's Letter the Romans 8:28-39, **GOSPEL** Luke 18:10-14



63rd Year

January 25, 2015

Pamphlet # 04 (3217)

WHY DO WE HONOR THE SAINTS?

In honoring the memory of a great Father, Saint Gregory and the Theologian, the Church offers an excerpt from the Epistle to the Hebrews of the Apostle Paul, where the absolute holiness of the Great High Priest, of our Christ is described. And she does this of course, in order to show forth the fact that in imitation of our Christ, although to a lesser degree, this great father and teacher of our Church managed to also be shown forth, "holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens." Our Church does this however also for one more reason. Because she wants to show what is her eternal model, the constant example which she projects so that it ends up a cause for copying and a measure of inspiration in the life of each person. But she also does it in order to certify how with this example as the cause, the Saints will always exist in the life of the Church.

The Saints implemented the Gospel of Christ

Why do Saints exist in the life of the Church? First, they exist in order to prove in every age, in every place, in all conditions, that the Gospel of Christ is achievable and implementable. And there are many people who simply reading and not studying the Gospel and have a difficulty, they feel

ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE HEBREWS 7:26-28; 8:1-2

PROKEIMENON. MODE 1.

PSALM 48.3,1

My mouth shall speak wisdom and the meditation of my heart shall bring forth understanding.

Verse: Hear this all you nations.

Brethren, it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once for all when he offered up himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever. Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord.

censured for their many evil habits and they find it as an easy solution to consider that whatever the Gospel writes "are beautiful as theories but in action they cannot be implemented". It suits them to maintain that no one is able to achieve the gospel manner of life. While in order to strengthen their positions they call upon cases of people of the Church, who obviously missed the mark and give a right for related comments.

To all these things our Church answers, constantly projecting the example of our Christ, but also of our Saints, who do not come from one class or category of people, but who compose a many-colored canvas where both genders, all ages, all ranks of people, all nations, all ages, all historical circumstances, all jobs, all conditions, all ways of life are represented. And she does this conscientiously, since in the framework of her pastoral care she does not even allow her liturgists to project themselves as models of life. No clergyman, no matter how high a position he

has, has the right to project his own self as a model for imitation. On the contrary, with the virtue of self censoring, but also of genuine humility, we are all led to understand and to live our human weakness in the light of divine holiness. From this light, those people are illumined and shown forth who became "little Christ's", and together with the Great Arch-shepherd, they call us to the life of holiness granting a familiar and approachable example. And these, the Church projects as models!

The Saints mediate for us

For what other reason do our Saints exist? In order to pray and to mediate for us! We read it also in today's reading where it is stressed that "we have a high priest, who sat at the right of the throne of majesty in the heavens". The only mediator between God and man is our Christ, but our Saints are prayerful intercessors with great boldness! So for this reason also, the Church honors them with special Services and establishes Celebrations in their memory, so that the Christians can gather and be taught from their life, but also to pray and to supplicate the Saint for their whatsoever problem or request. While on account of this prayerful relationship and familiarity which is developed between the believing Christian and the protector Saint, vows "tamata" have been a dedicated in the life of our Church, which are not placed in a "business viewpoint" of giving and receiving, but which comprise momentary or continual, voluntary bindings of a Christian for a self giving up from some right or enjoyment of his, as a proof that he does not attach his life to material or temporal things, but that he depends it on the will of God and the help of the Saints.

The Saints comprise the measure with which we will be judged

For what other reason finally do the Saints exist? They exist because they comprise the measure with which we will be judged.