

crucified, following the same path which Christ traversed! With a certain hope that we also will “suffer” the same thing, we will be co-crucified in order for us to be co-resurrected! We will overturn our selfish will in order for the hell which we are living, to be overturned! We will turn our mind and heart upwards, in order for them to be altered into a “ruling mind and loving heart”! We will turn upwards, not in order to avoid what is beneath, but in order for everything to become upside down, just as in hades with the passage of Christ, in His absolute triumph!

The Cross is the utmost symbol of subversion, because it invites us to sacrifice our own self, for God’s will to be realized “on earth as it is in heaven”.

Archimandrite I. N

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2015 SUNDAY BEFORE HOLY CROSS,
FOREFEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS,**

The Consecration of the Church of the Holy Resurrection (Holy Sepulchre), Cornelius the Centurion & Martyr, Aristides the Philosopher, Hierotheos the Righteous of Iveron Monastery, Mount Athos.

tone of the week: *Plagal of the Second Tone*

EOTHINON *Fourth Eothinon*

EPISTLE *St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18*

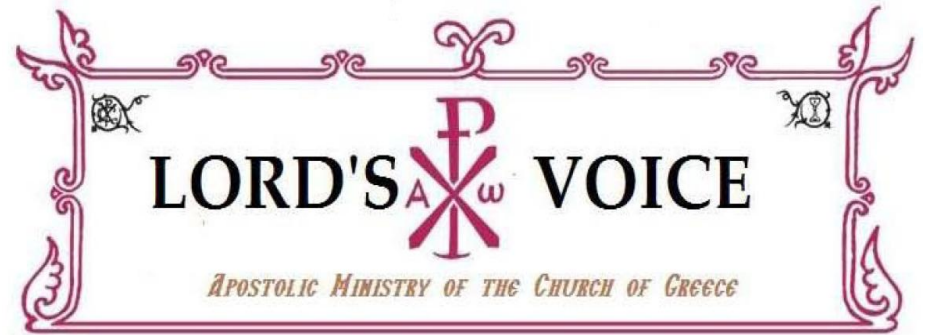
GOSPEL *John 3:13-17*

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2015 SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS,

Eustathius the great Martyr, his wife and two children, Our Righteous Father Eustathius, Archbishop of Thessalinica, Hilarion the New Martyr of Crete, Afterfeast of the Holy Cross.

EPISTLE *St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20*

GOSPEL *Mark 8:34-38, 9:1,*



63RD YEAR September 13, 2015 PAMPHLET # 37 (3250)

THE ONLY SUBVERSION

Subversion! A modern term with great resounding, since it revives many times, disproven hopes for abolishing every injustice, every type of submission, every inequality in our world. And just as the remembrance from the betrayal of dreams, of promises and claims in the, throughout the planet and in various periods, documented relative efforts, is indelible, just as older slogans refer to popular disappointment, this term, comes in our days, in order to denote what is constantly being claimed. The battle to wipe out the oppressive and unfree establishment with a sweet hope of the dawning of a better, more just world, for all people, around the earth.

And the more time and struggles pass, either they fail and are proven vain, or they succeed and are altered into an advantageous restructuring of the authoritative phenomenon, all the more the claim and hope of an ethical elevation of man and of a just society through theories, ideas, ways of inner-worldly human inspiration, is validated as utopian.

And nevertheless, the great subversion in the history of humanity occurred! And furthermore it was very successful! Not only did it simply bring everything upside down, but it maintains it thus, in a subversive logic which makes whatever else is juxtaposed as something newer, revolutionary or original, a laughingstock. And this subversion is the Cross of Christ.

ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE GALATIANS 6:11-18

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 2.

Psalm 27.9,1

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

BRETHREN, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

The boasting

Paul also in today's Epistle Reading boasts of the Cross of our Lord and not of our Crucified Lord! Why is he boasting about the plain Cross? Why does our Church, as opposed to the Roman Catholic one, project only the Cross and not the Crucified Christ? Because this plain Cross, on its own, is the most eloquent sermon, the most important message, the greatest hope! The empty Cross refers to the Resurrection, to the inability of death to keep the source of life bound, in the certain hope of the common resurrection of us all!

The important thing is not that Christ was nailed to the Cross and shed His blood for us, but that even if this occurred, death was not able to defeat Him! The unheard of thing is not that through the Cross, His enemies managed to dishonor Him, to offend Him, to mock Him and He forbore it, but that He was glorified thus! The most amazing thing is not that the greatest subverter of the ages is forbearing his annihilation, but that through this annihilation of his he is subverting everything both on earth and in the heavens!

So for this reason also the Cross is the boast of us all, who wish to be called and to be Christians. Because it abolishes the prim and properness of whoever "wishes to look good in the flesh", of whoever is "conformed to this age" and who lives glued to the "here and now" ignoring the perspective of eternity. The Cross is the symbol of the great subversion, since from an instrument of death it became the wood of life, from the utmost humility it became the greatest glory, from a means of cursing it became the source of sanctification and theosis.

The alignment

The Precious Cross becomes all these things and more, unspeakable and inconceivable things for the human mind, but under one condition! Under the condition that today's Epistle Reading mentions, the same one that documents Paul's boast about the Cross of our Christ. And this condition is the alignment. And furthermore the "alignment to the rule"!

The Cross of Christ becomes cause for boasting, for whoever completely follows, aligning their life to the rule "of the new lifestyle in Christ". This means that they conform and follow the rule of behavior and teaching, not of their own invention, but defined and pre-outlined by God himself! And which is this rule which the must "align ourselves" to? We merely need to look at the empty Cross of Christ, which is empty because it awaits us!

The Cross which is projected as a sign of boasting, is simultaneously projected also as a way of life! And if it is projected empty, without the Crucified One, this does not happen only as a confession of His Resurrection, but also as an invitation for us to be