

words, they constantly ascertain the divine Glory and hymn him. But they do not cease also, to impart the divine will according to God's commandments to his people, not any longer however, as interjectors in the relationship between God – men, but as guardian Angels, our fellow helpers in the spiritual struggle and our invisible helpers in our effort to become citizens of heaven. Especially our guardian Angel remains at our side lifelong, not as our overlord, but as a friend and fellow traveler, in our journey toward Christ.

My brethren, it is very consoling for us to know that it's not just machines, human constructions with aims many times ethically problematic, that move around us. It is a great comfort for us to understand that in the air around us, it's not just the frequency waves that only move, who serve human aims. It is a great joy for us to ascertain that an innumerable army of heavenly Angels and Archangels surround us, hymning and glorifying God and helping people in a protecting manner. Today in their grace, let us all pray to move "under the shadow of the Angel wings". Because however, especially our military Air Force celebrates, let us wish to its personnel, to be always under the firm shelter of the Angelic wings, faithful to their mission as champions of the rights of our homeland.

Archimandrite I. N

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2015 7TH SUNDAY OF LUKE *Synaxis of the Archangel Michael & the other Bodiless Powers: Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salaphiel, Jegudiel, & Barachiel*

tone of the week: Plagal of the Second Tone

EOTHINON *First Eothinon*

EPISTLE *St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 2:2-10*

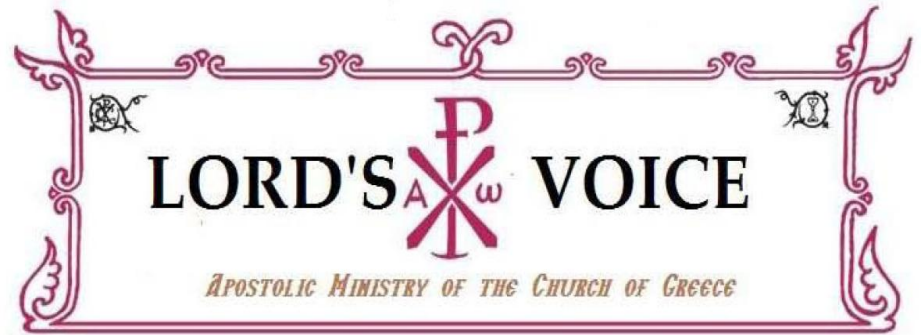
GOSPEL *Luke 8:41-56*

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2015 8TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

Guria, Shamuna, & Habib, Martyrs & Confessors of Edessa, Thomas, Archbishop of Constantinople

EPISTLE: *St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22*

GOSPEL: *Luke 10:25-37*



63RD YEAR NOVEMBER 8, 2015 PAMPHLET # 45 (3258)

ANGELS AND HUMANS

Great is today's feast of the All Great Archgenerals Michael and Gabriel and all the heavenly bodiless Powers. And it is a feast which does not take cause from something which happened in a specific place and historical time. Precisely because the Angels are supernatural beings, "liturgical spirits sent out unto ministry" (Heb. 1:14), so for this reason, they do not move with human terms. We humans approach them making analogies familiar to us, so for this reason, we also say that referring to the Angels we are speaking in an anthropomorphic manner. Thus, our Church also celebrates their synaxis, in other words, the gathering of the believers in the Churches in their honor, so that the Church, gathering and worshipping the Lord of Glory, will simultaneously honor the light-formed and light-like Angels. Especially today the "let us stand well" which the Archangel Gabriel thundered comes to our mind, when Lucifer fell and from an Angel he became a devil, swaying into the fall, quite a number of Angels who with their fall, became demons. This "let us stand well" restrained the rest of the Holy Angels preserving them in divine familiarity. While the Church projects it, in order to focus our attention on the constant danger which lurks at every moment of our life, for us to stray and fall into judgment and condemnation.

ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE HEBREWS 2:2-10

Prokeimenon. Mode 4

Psalm 103.4,1

**Who makes his angels spirits and
his ministers a flame of fire**

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God you are very great.

BRETHREN, if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his own will. For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, "What is man that thou art mindful of him, or the son of man, that thou carest for him? Thou didst make him for a little while lower than the angels, thou hast crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for every one. For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering.

So let us not rest, because so long as we are alive, we are in a contesting arena, with the obvious possibility of falling, so for this reason, also spiritual wakefulness is necessity.

"Nor to the Angels did he subject the future universe"

Prior to Christ, it seems as if the role of the Angels is more intense. In the Old Testament, where the distance of God and man is obvious after the fall, the Angels appear in many circumstances as those announcing the will of the Lord. The directness and the relationship of God – men doesn't exist, but the Angels are interjected in order to make the Law and the divine will known. So for this reason also, the Apostle Paul in the above characterization which he renders them as liturgical spirits, adds "sent out for those who will inherit salvation" (Heb. 1:14). They are interjected, sent out to all those who will inherit salvation.

And this mission of the Angels, probably created complications, since humans, impressed by the supercelestial appearance of the supernatural beings, did not accept them as their fellow servants, but as their superiors. So Paul comes today, with an excerpt of his Epistle which he addresses to his fellow compatriot Jews, to say that the Angels are worthy of every honor on the one hand, but they're not overlords over men. And this because the Kingdom of the Heavens, which we await to partake of, as citizens in unending eternity, is not ruled over by Angels, but is dominated by the Messiah and Deliverer Christ himself!

The ruler of our salvation

What does Paul want to say about the Angels? He wants to stress that we now, in the age of Grace, do not need intermediaries in our relationship with God the Father. The Church as the new universe, as the new world of God, is not controlled by supernatural beings, but by the Only Begotten Son and Word of God himself! From the moment the person of Christ exists, we also aim to be grafted onto this, from the moment that our Christ himself secured the directness and familiarity in our relationship with him, especially handing over to us his Body and Blood "unto eating and drinking", we don't need representatives, interjectors, middlemen in order for us to proceed to Christ. The directness of personal contact, is our right, thus the Church does not accept middlemen.

Then are we able to consider the Angels, to a certain degree, useless now? No, because the Angels were not made in order to serve us. Their main work is the unending glorification of God. Basil the Great says that they stand circularly around the throne of God, they gaze at him, in other