

message of the Kingdom of the heavens, Christ and His Gospel, everyone enjoys the right not simply in repentance and the remission of sins, but in holiness and theosis. So they can obviously show that no matter how much the devil rages, no matter how many things he manages to do, everything is passing and with a deadline date. Only the work of Christ remains unto the ages, saving, philanthropic, the only sure thing!

The greatest persecutor of Christianity was probably, Diocletian. The persecution he loosened, was the worst that the Church had experienced up to then. The blood of the martyrs was flowing like a river. And Diocletian, because he had annihilated many Christians, thought that he'd wiped them out, so much so, so that in order for there to exist something that would remind them along with his victory against them, he cut a cold coin with the inscription "nomine christianorum deleto", in other words, "to the wiped out name of the Christians". And as soon as he circulated it, he discovered, amazed, that in his palace itself, his own wife, St Alexandra, was a Christian!

My brethren, let the darkness that surrounds us seem thick. So long as the Church exists, the Liturgy is performed and the Gospel is preached, the light shines and does great work illuminating the security of the paternal embrace of our God and our path to there

Archimandrite I. N

SUNDAY JANUARY 10, 2016 SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY, *Gregory of Nyssa, Dometian, Bishop of Melitene, Theosebia the Deaconess, sister of Basil the Great & Gregory of Nyssa, Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*

TONE OF THE WEEK: *Grave Tone*

EOTHINON *Tenth Eothinon*

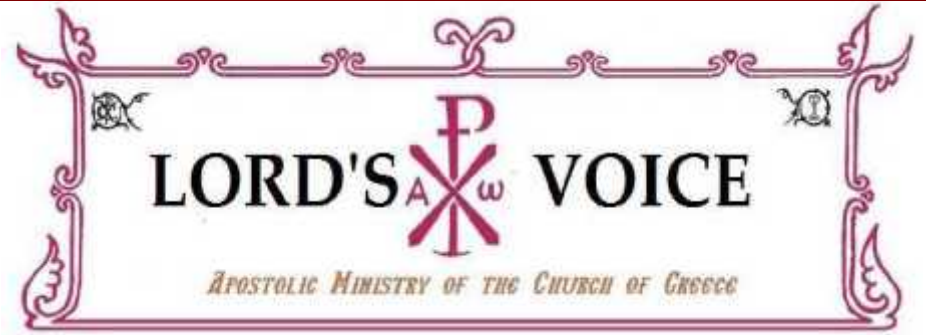
EPISTLE: *St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13*

GOSPEL: *Matthew 4:12-17*

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2016 12TH SUNDAY OF LUKE, *Anthony the Great, Anthony the New of the Berropas Skete, George the New Martyr of Ioannina, Theodosius the Emperor*

EPISTLE: *St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:17-21*

GOSPEL: *Luke 17:12-19*



64TH YEAR JANUARY 10, 2016 PAMPHLET # 2 (3267)

FROM THE DARKNESS TO THE LIGHT!

It has been said and certified a thousand times over. Our age is dominated by matter and a materially minded way of life. And our people, swayed in the vortex of daily life, of advertisement of the ephemeral as essential, but also of ignorance and indifference, everyone admits are characterized as unchatechized. What is the Church doing, many ask, hastening to seek responsibilities there where less than elsewhere it exists, since they forget that the Church can't obligate, force or bind. The Church can only convince using the ecclesiastical way of life, her word, her preaching. And when this is buried beneath the noise of the crowd, the roar and the noise of all who easily shout advertizing methodically the superficial and the unimportant, it follows that our people are deceived and undergo the harm living in spiritual darkness and decline.

Whoever rejoices for the condition, whoever despairs from the condition, but also whoever considers the matter of the evangelizing of the people already lost, obviously forget that the thickest darkness of the night is a little before the dawn breaks. The absolute triumph of the darkness is a little before its abolition! And it has been ascertained in history, that the greatest upheavals occurred when various rulers were absolutely certain of their firm

SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
The Gospel according to Mathew 4:12-17

At that time, Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

establishment, so that it definitely shows that in the end, God is governing his world!

The darkness

Today's Gospel passage sets out describing the actions of Christ after his baptism, after the completion of the forty days in the desert and the facing of the three temptations. Because he was informed that Herod Antipas had already captured and imprisoned the Precious Forerunner, and consequently the intense reaction had begun in each thing that was associated with the Forerunner by the instruments of darkness, He decided, in order to avoid per chance related misunderstandings and consequences, to depart from the area of Judaea and to flee to the area of Galilee. Furthermore according to the historians, the area of Judaea, as the center of the kingdom of Herod Antipas was in a stir, because, on the one hand, the capture of John displeased the people and

revolutions were being rumored, on the other hand, King Arethas of the Nabatians, the father in law of Herod Antipas, dreadfully insulted that the latter separated his wife and the daughter of the former, in order to marry Herodias, was preparing an invasion. Furthermore Aretha's campaign was victorious, resulting in the people considering Herod Antipa's defeat as a divine punishment, because in the meantime he had beheaded the Precious Forerunner!

In other words, the historical events for the area of Judaea were tragic. Moral unbridling, invasion, revolutions, killing one another and the consolation of the people, the Precious Forerunner, who with his prophetic preaching was dissolving the darkness of despair proclaiming the coming of the Deliverer, initially was imprisoned and afterwards beheaded. While Christ himself, disappeared to another area. How many then wouldn't have believed, as always in similar circumstances, that God turned his back on people and abandoned them in their horrible state....

The light

And nevertheless, in this critical moment, from the seaside city of Capernaum in Galilee, He sets out the saving preaching which will overturn the universe, will crush the despair and will give meaning to hope as certain. "The people sitting in darkness saw a great light, and those sitting in the land and shadow of death, light dawned upon them" (Mt. 4:16). The sun of righteousness, the unsetting light of the Kingdom of the heavens penetrates and dissolves deepest darkness, so that it can be declared in the best possible way that God never forgets, nor abandons His creature, even when they offended, revolt against divine Righteousness and Providence!

No one in our day remembers the misfortune and despair that the moral quagmire and the plots of wicked people had created then in Judaea. Everyone, however, knows the saving