

of a contemporary Babel, where Man handed over to the charm of deceptive passionate thoughts and of the fumes of the passions and perverted desires, inclinations and tendencies of his heart, seems to sink without return to the charm of the abyss and of the well of perdition. A moment of deep prayer and attention probably will help the lost center to be found. From the inner depths, the voice of Tradition, that is of Christ handed down from me to you and from generation to generation, of Him living unto the ages in His Church, wonderfully calls us. There is a great and urgent need, brethren, that we find Christ. Where? There where we left Him. Either Christ or chaos. The repentance and faith which flows from this shakes and moves mountains according to the Lord's infallible mouth. The aim of our life and of our entire being is, surpassing amidst afflictions and trials the emptiness which our spiritual state transfuses to us, that we turn toward the only one able to save us, with a strong, mournful cry and tears. Then our words will also incarnate Love, the only necessary language of the past, of the present and of the future.

Archim. E. T.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2017 HOLY PENTECOST** *Our Father Metrophanes, Archbishop of Constantinople, Mary & Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, Sophia of Thrace, The Mother of Orphans, Petroc, Abbot of Padstow.*

**TONE OF THE WEEK :** Plagal of the Fourth Tone

**EOTHINON :** *Eleventh Orthros Gospel*

**EPISTLE READING:** *Acts 2:1-11*

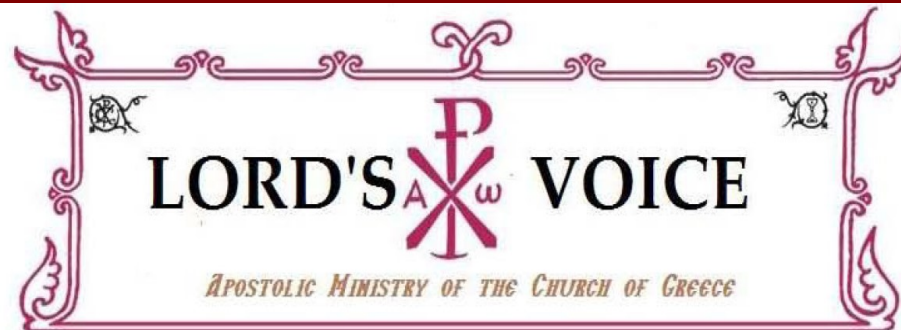
**GOSPEL READING:** *John 7:37-52; 8:12*

**NEXT SUNDAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017 THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS**

*Bartholomew the Holy Apostle Barnabas the Holy Apostle, Revelation of the Hymn Axion Estin to a monk on Mt. Athos by the Archangel Gabriel*

**EPISTLE READING:** *Acts 11:19-30*

**GOSPEL READING:** *Matthew 10:32-37-38, 19:27-30*



65<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

June 4 2017

PAMPHLET # 23 (3340)

## THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH

Today the Church celebrates, is dressed brightly, beloved brethren. All believers, as today's passage of the Acts narrates to us, are gathered with one heart, "all together", in the same place. Like one person! Just as our God is One in essence and trihypostatic according to hypostases, thus Man also is one essence and "myriad-hypostatic" in hypostases. So, so many people one Man in essence. Consequently no problem understanding one another. The 3000 souls lived this mystery with the preaching of the Apostle Peter on that day and with their baptism that followed.

### A violent breath and the first speaking in tongues

A noise from heaven like a strong wind was localized and entered into the house where the Apostles and all the disciples were. With their eyes they saw "fiery" tongues sitting each one on the Apostles. They were filled within with the Holy Spirit they came to a condition of divine intoxication and of vision of God and they spoke foreign languages, they were saying divine words and heavenly teachings. The inhabitants of Jerusalem, not only Jews, but also other nationalities, as soon as they heard the noise,

## ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 2:1-11

WHEN THE DAY of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

were overcome by confusion and amazement and gathered together in this place. They were amazed because they were hearing the Apostles speaking strangely in their own national languages.

Some interpreters say that the Apostles continued speaking Hebrew, whereas the listeners were hearing, each one in his language, which is also the most prevailing viewpoint. Others again say that they were truly speaking foreign languages of their age. Others, like the ever-memorable Fr. Romanides, say, that the speaking of tongues is a manifestation of the gift of noetic prayer.

No matter how the event is, in any case, it concerns a graceful spiritual condition of unity and love-in juxtaposition to the experience of division and confusion of the age of Babel -more generalized in those years, when the Holy Spirit was drawing good-intentioned souls through miracle works, which nevertheless progressively becomes less and almost disappears in the age of the

sacred Chrysostom, as he himself witnesses, nevertheless spontaneous cases exist even today.

A pale, deceptive image of the first genuine intervention of God in the first Church, the ludicrous conditions in contemporary Protestant gatherings comprise, a result of psychological suggestions, auto suggestions, hysterical deviations of sick individuals, who want to "distinguish" demons or a combination of some or all of the above causes.

### **To each one separately**

The Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost does not appear as a spectacular huge bright sphere, but is apportioned in visible bright tongues which each one of them also sits upon one person. God personally addresses each one of us separately, as to a responsible person, not to an anonymous mass of individuals and pursues the personal cooperation of each one with Him. He stretches out His hand and we freely give Him our own. His gifts and their combinations are infinite. With His breaths He adorns differently each person in the Church, forgives the other, which means that He lives with him in the same area, in the country of the living, edifying the unity in Christ. Wherever there is are breakups, factions, fanaticisms, looseness, para-gatherings, the Holy Spirit is put to flight.

Our struggle in the Church of Christ is that we obtain the Holy Spirit, as Saint Seraphim of Sarov used to also say. Participation in the saving mysteries, keeping the commandments of the Gospel, working the virtues like fasts, vigils and our prayers, aim at this, that Christ be formed in our heart and for Him to set us up as living casts of His grace.

### **The necessity for the human tongue**

We are living in an age of confusion of people, of nations and of members of the family between them. People speak the same language and the one does not understand the other. An age