

where "Christ is sitting at the right of God" (Col. 3:1) and he ended up "hunchbacked" looking only at the earth and earthly things. The blessed Romanian Elder Cleopas Elie refers to someone who had been enslaved by the passion of stealing. Once he went to steal bales of hay from the farm field of a rich fellow, taking together also, his five year old little daughter, who was intensely asking for a walk. Arriving at the place of the robbery, he began carefully looking to the right and left, in case someone would see him. Then the little girl, who had not understood what was happening, by "divine beckoning" tells him with simplicity: "Dad, you looked at all the places, but you forgot to look at the sky". The innocent indication of the little girl, shook him and woke him up. "He was immediately raised up" and understood that, only by thinking and seeking the things above, does a person truly become wealthy.

Together with the repentant thief, let us ask Christ, with the words of the Paraclete: "like the former hunchbacked woman raise me up, to straightly walk on your paths, oh Philanthropic One".

Archim. B. L

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018, 10TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

The Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos, Hannah the Righteous, mother of Samuel the Prophet, Narses the Martyr of Persia, The Consecration of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulchre) in the Holy City of Jerusalem.

-tone of the week : Third Tone

EOTHINON : Sixth Orthros Gospel

EPISTLE READING: Galatians 4:22 - 27

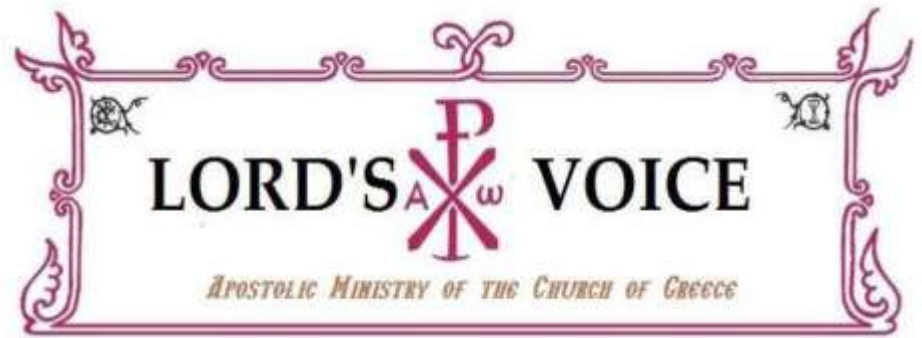
GOSPEL READING: Luke 13: 10-17

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018, 11TH SUNDAY OF

LUKE, *The Holy Prophet Aggaeus (Haggai), Modestos, Archbishop of Jerusalem, Our Righteous Mother Blessed Empress Theophania, Nicholas, Patriarch of Constantinople, Archbishop of Ephesus.*

EPISTLE READING: Colossians 3:4 - 11

GOSPEL READING: Luke 14: 16-24



66TH YEAR DECEMBER 9 2018 PAMPHLET #49 (3419)

RAISE ME UP"

Christ, teaching in the synagogue, meets a woman, who for 18 entire years, is troubled by a "spirit of infirmity" and is hunchbacked. The woman did not go to the synagogue to seek her cure. Obviously she did not even know who Christ was. She went to pray and to glorify God. Who else will give "glory and a right to the Lord?" Maybe "those trusting in their own power and in the multitude of their wealth" (Ps. 48:7)? No, but the soul that is greatly vexed, which goeth stooping and feeble, and the eyes that fail, and the hungry soul, will give thee glory and righteousness, O Lord." (Baruch 2:17).

The irrationality of envy

Such a hurting and hungry soul, bowed down by illness, with eyes that got tired seeing only the ground, Christ had compassion on. And without her asking Him for it, He cured her with His "most God-befitting and authoritative voice and with His royal beckoning" (Saint Cyril of Alexandria). Satan however, who for so many years was troubling her, chased away now, by Christ, and wishing to lessen the glory of the miracle, binds the ruler of the synagogue with envy (Saint Theophylactos). Satan found him disposed, because his hypocritical life had made him hunchbacked" much worse than the woman. She had been bound

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO (LUKE 13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

involuntarily, while he – misinterpreting the Mosaic Law – voluntarily bows down from an unliftable pile of types of false piety. And he does not trouble only his own self, but he “binds, with heavy burdens difficult to bear and places them upon people’s shoulders” (Mt. 23:4). It is noteworthy that his crazy suggestion he addresses only to the crowd. He does not dare to turn at all to Christ, Whom he envies now unimaginably, seeing Him gaining the admiration and the trust of the people. So according to his irrational demand, the poor hunchbacked woman ought to have answered the Lord’s saving command: “No, Lord, it is the Sabbath today and it is not allowed for me to be raised up. You have to delay my cure for tomorrow”. Christ censures the ruler of the synagogue in a most strict tone. He calls him a “hypocrite” and notes the state he ended up in, considering “the person more dishonorable than the beast”. since his animals, he does not leave

even for one day unwatered, whereas the sick woman - for 18 years – “he does not wish her to be delivered from the illness”. And furthermore, a soul that “not so much on account of the descent, but on account of her faith, is a daughter of Abraham”.

“Sanctification of the Sabbath” and the “syndrome of Sunday”

Naturally the specific ruler of the synagogue was not only misinterpreting the Law related to the holiday of the Sabbath. In all the cases where Christ performed a miracle on the Sabbath day, the reaction was so intense, “that the Jews were chasing Jesus away and seeking to kill him, that he was doing these things on the Sabbath” (John 5:16). The hardening to which their hypocrisy had led them, does not allow them to accept that “the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath”, nor much more so, to believe that Christ is the lawgiver and the lord of the Sabbath. So for this reason, they did not want to understand that “to sanctify the Sabbath day” (Ex. 20:8) is not related to a barren and mechanical holiday “of the letter”, but with the, in Spirit, worship of God and doing philanthropic good works.

In today’s secularized society, these things seem rather incomprehensible. Today the holiday of Sunday, cut off from the Lord and the Lord’s Supper of the Liturgy, ended up simply an empty day, were in vain, the unliturgized person tries to fill it with amusements, in other words, with an unfertile scattering of the mind and heart. These unfertile gaps take revenge with the appearance of the “syndrome of Sunday”, the strange sickness, that for years now, psychiatrists have observed in all the contemporary world. The symptoms of this syndrome are: boredom, mindlessness, a tendency for flight, nervousness and unforeseen outbursts.

Seek the things above

The basic cause of evil, lies in the fact that man, taking God out of his life, stopped seeking and thinking the things above,