

Erudite clergyman (bishops, archimandrites and priests) were the authors of the written sermon, while the content of the pamphlet aims at the edification of its readers in matters of Orthodox faith and life. During this period, the "Voice of the Lord" remained firmly attached to its initial aim: to be a brief and contemporary edifying pamphlet about life in Christ.

We glorify our philanthropic Lord, because with the intercessions of the Most Holy Theotokos and His Saints, the Apostolic Ministry has been granted to perform this offering for 68 years already. We fervently thank our colleagues in this ministry, and promise to continue our effort, with the grace of the Holy Trinity.

Whoever of the readers, desire and are able to strengthen our effort, are able to deposit their offering – no matter how small it is – to the account number of the National Bank of Greece: 146/558 073-04, IBAN: GR910110146000014655807304

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"THE VOICE OF THE LORD" in the whole world through the Internet: [www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr](http://www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 05, 2020 SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY,**  
*Eve of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ , The Holy Martyrs Theopemptus and Theonas, Righteous Syncletike of Alexandria, Apollinaria of Egypt, Gregory of Akrita.*

**TONE OF THE WEEK :** Fourth Tone

**EOETHINON :** Seventh Orthros Gospel

**EPISTLE READING:** St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8

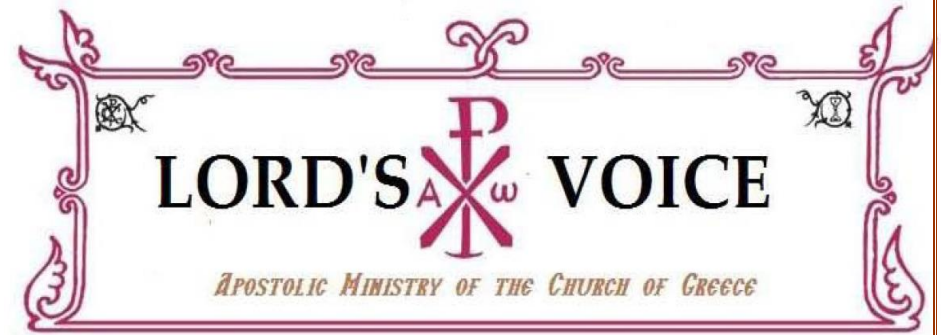
**GOSPEL READING:** Mark 1:1-8

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020 SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY,**

*Tatiana the Martyr of Rome , Martyr Mertios, Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ , Basil and John the Hieromartyrs, Euthasia the Virgin-Martyr , Peter of Absalom ,*

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

**GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 4:12-17



68<sup>TH</sup> YEAR 05 JANUARY 2020 PAMPHLET #01 (3475)

## THE PATH OF THE LORD

We people have not learned from the heart to accept orders. Usually we want to control our own self and our life – and we would prefer to be those who are ordering others. The order furthermore, has the meaning that the one ordering is the master, whereas the person being ordered the slave, the servant, the underling. Most people work in their life, for that time to come, in which they are able to be not simply masters of their own self, but to prove their authority, giving orders to others as well. And sometimes people go through every means, in order to control. Even lying.

### An invitation to walk together

There are however also, the orders of God, which have the form of the exhortation, of the free invitation to man to follow a path of love, of truth and communion. Because this was, is, and will be the path of the Lord (Mark 1:3). Not the path of authority, which aims at subjecting man, but a path of kindness, which aims at giving man eternity. The orders of God aim at connecting and communing with the person of Christ. Christ does not control us, but He sanctifies us. He does not scorn our freedom, but shows it forth.

## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (MARK 1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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He calls us to a path of light and love. And it is communion with Him in Church, because this preserves His path, the guarantee and safety for us all, so long as we shall wish to follow it. So for this reason also, His whatsoever orders are exhortations of love. They show us that light exists, so long as we seek it and hope in this. And He knows how to wait for us. And even if we reject Him in our life, He gives us all, the opportunities until the end, for us to return to Him. So long as our heart has a good disposition.

### Turning toward the neighbor

So we are called to walk the path of the Lord. It is a path of kindness, in a world full of harshness, juxtapositions, wickedness, sin. It is a path that needs time in order for us to walk it, and not results "here and now". It does not promise glory and recognition, but patience and holiness, the cross and resurrection. It is a path of love, which turns towards the neighbor and seeks him also to live the joy and the light.

We are living in an age from which the sense of our mission to prepare the path of the Lord is missing. The prophets had this in the years of the Old Testament, with their chief expresser being

John the Forerunner. Only that for them to prepare the path of the Lord, they did not settle in words, zeal, inspiration, teaching the truth. They put these into action also with their works. Their asceticalness and sparseness in their food. Their retirement to the desert, in other words, to prayer and seeking God. Their courage and their decisiveness in proclaiming the truth, even with their martyrdom as the cost. They handed down this mission to all of us Christians, who are partaking in the prophetic office of our Lord, in other words, in the responsibility to teach God's will to everyone. And this will, baptizes man in the light, sanctifies the person and the totality, and becomes a steppingstone of another ethos: that of kindness, of love and of truth, of patience and of holiness.

### An order of hope

The order "prepare ye the way of the Lord" is an exhortation of hope. This path exists. And we are all called to struggle to prepare it. First in our hearts, and subsequently in the life of everyone. And the one who is stronger than all of us (Mark 1:7) will give His light and sanctification both to us and to our world.

Fr. T. M.

### WITH OUR WHOLE SOUL

**WE WISH FOR 2020 THE FULLNESS OF JOY AND PEACE,  
THE ABUNDANCE OF HOPE, UNQUENCHING STRENGTH TO RESIST  
AND CREATION IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
WORD AND ACTION OF LOVE TO OUR FELLOW MAN AND TO  
CREATION!**

### IN THE 68<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF THE VOICE OF THE LORD

The "Voice of the Lord" joyfully announces its entrance into the 68<sup>th</sup> year of its publication, with the present pamphlet. For so many years, every Sunday, in thousands of churches, monasteries, hospitals, military units and prisons, it is distributed to our Christians, imparting the word of our Lord, the word of truth and life, whereas it is also being sent to 20 countries abroad for the Greeks abroad.