

“Teach me your statutes”

The Church chants: blessed are you, O Lord teach me your statutes” (Ps. 18:12). Teach me, O Lord that which you have the right for, in other words, everything of our existence. Whatever I have, you have given it to me. You have every right over me, of life and of death. Because you ascended to the Cross for me, and drank the cup of the passion and the baptism of death. And teach me to be able to follow this road of yours, of ministering to people, and of abdicating from my rights. In the life of the Church. In the difficulties of the world. And teach me to be seeking this. So that I may know what I am asking

Fr. T. M.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2020 SUNDAY OF ST. MARY OF

EGYPT, Monk-Martyrs Claudius, Diodore, Victor, Victorinus, and those with them, Theodora the Righteous of Thessaloniki Agathopodes and Theodulos the Martyrs, George the new Martyr.

TONE OF THE WEEK : First Tone

EOTHINON : Nineth Eothinon Gospel

EPISTLE READING : St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 9:11-14

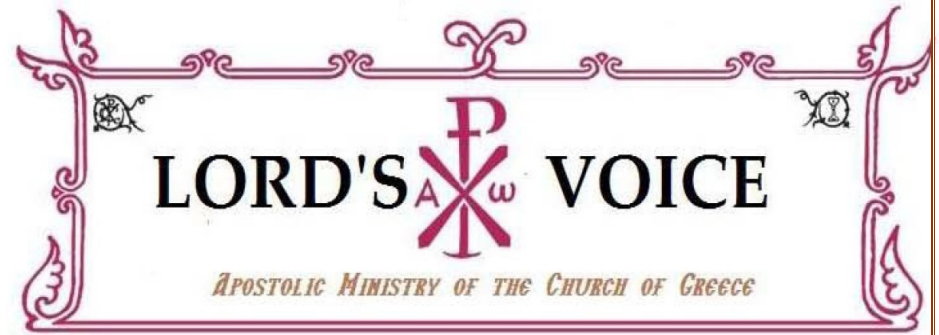
GOSPEL READING: Mark 10: 32-45

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020 PALM SUNDAY Basil the

Confessor, Bishop of Parium Anthousa the Righteous of Constantinople, Akakios of Kavsoalyvia, Sergius II, Patriarch of Constantinople

EPISTLE READING : St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9

GOSPEL READING: John 12:1-18



68TH YEAR APRIL 5 2020 PAMPHLET #14 (3488)

DO WE KNOW WHAT WE ARE ASKING?

“You don’t know what you are asking” (Mark 10:35). With this phrase, the Christ is addressing His disciples, James, and John, when they ask Him, a little before His passion, to allow one to sit at His right and the other to his left, when He will establish His kingdom in the world. And Christ, wanting to help them to understand that His kingdom cannot have the character of authority, of domination over people, of showing off power, but it is a kingdom of love, of ministry to people, of caring for them and of absolute respect for their freedom, He speaks to them in a harsh manner.

Next to the rulers

It is not just that their request witnesses a lack of understanding of what way of being Christ is seeking. The two disciples, but also the rest who became frustrated with them, probably because they themselves did not manage to seek something analogous first, they are showing what many times occurs next to ruling personalities. People come without humility, who are seeking to receive positions near the distinct ones. People without realizing their capabilities, people with

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 10:32-45

At that time, Jesus took his twelve disciples, and he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

lights from elsewhere, who want to appear important. We ascertain that in the secular reality, the rulers are swayed, they entrust such people, either because they don't have time to

examine their real capabilities, or because they need colleagues, or because they like flattery. The two disciples, of course, were capable, and had a disposition to give their whole self to the mission that Christ would appoint them to. However, the Lord grounds them in the reality, which is primarily spiritual. It does not glorify us to follow Christ. Our gifts will not glorify us. What truly validates us, is our sincere disposition to offer, to sacrifice ourself, to hand ourself over to love. Humble love, sharing, self denial is our true glory!

Imitation of humility

Christ did not come to the world as the high God, "but He appeared as a humble person" (Service of the Salutations). His purpose was to draw, to the height of heaven, all those who decide to imitate Him in humility. Who are not seeking honors and recognition for themselves, but give themselves to the struggle for God to be honored in the world and among people. And their works are such that do not strive for any praise. There virtue itself, is their praise, but they do not boast of it, nor do they want a reward. On the contrary, they get ready in their life, to face the ingratitude of people, rejection, affliction and the cross, precisely because they are not striving for glories.

The road is difficult. And the Lord's word applies to us also: "we do not know what we are asking". Often our prayer to God, is for our happiness, for our health, for our acceptance by others, for our glory, for the recognition of our toils. And we aim there. When the time comes for us to drink the cup of struggle and of trial, there we often yield. Even our faith, the life of the Church, we consider in our mind, as a cause for validation. So, for this reason also, we are not able to interpret the difficulties that occur in our life, from the moment that we believe. Because we consider that we have rights before God and before people.