

that we allow the resurrectional light to be victorious in the life of the Church!

Christ shines in the darkness of the world. Let us say in this brightly shining resurrectional night, the “Yes” from our heart, to the gift of our own resurrection and let us shout with the prophet and let us live it: Christ is Risen!

Fr. T. M.

**May the resurrectional triumph of Jesus Christ
against sin and death,
the completion of His saving work upon the earth
for the renewal of the entire world
and the light of Resurrection,
fill “now and forever” all of our hearts with rejoicing**

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020 GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA, *The Holy Hieromartyr Paphnutius, George the Confessor, Tryphon, Patriarch of Constantinople, Martyrs Emmanuel, Theodore, George, Michael and the other George of Samothrace, Aelphege the Hieromartyr of Canterbury .*

TONE OF THE WEEK :

EOTHINON :

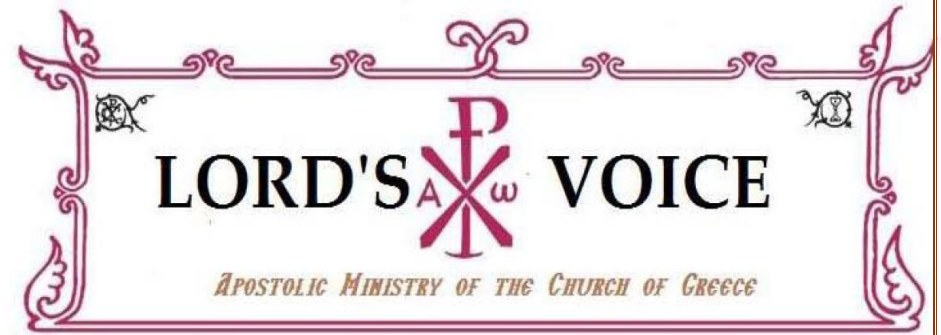
EPISTLE READING : *Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8*

GOSPEL READING: *John 1:1-17*

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020 THOMAS SUNDAY, *Basil the Holy Martyr Bishop of Amasea, Glaphyra the Righteous, Justa the Nun*

EPISTLE READING : *Acts of the Apostles 5:12-20*

GOSPEL READING: *John 20:19-31*



68TH YEAR APRIL 19 2020 PAMPHLET #16 (3490)

THE LIGHT SHONE IN THE DARKNESS OF THE WORLD”

The resurrectional night is brightly shining! A precursor of the brightly shining day of the resurrection from the dead! “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (Jn. 1:5-6). This light shone in the darkness of the world, but the darkness was not able to put it out. Because it is the light of the presence of the Word of God, who was crucified, buried and resurrected.

Created light, and created light

The first sign of the creation of the world was the light. “Let there be light” said God (Gen. 1:3). And the light was the cause of life. Together with this, time began. Everything that God the Father created through the Son in the Holy Spirit, appears in the light and in this the universe, heaven and earth, the land and the sea, the plants and the animals appear and exist. This first light, however, is not able, on its own, to give eternity to life. It is created, that means that it has a beginning and end. It exists as a gift of God. It is not god. And for this reason, everything in this, dawns and sets. They enter into time and go out. They live and die.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

There is, however, another light, the uncreated one! It is the light that we see and live it, in the person of Christ, the God who becomes man. It is the true light that enlightens every person who comes into the world (Jn. 1:9). We are able to make this light our own, to allow it to shine in our heart and mind, in our soul and body, and for it to give us resurrection and life. We are able also to reject it. To choose the spiritual darkness of the absence of God from our life. "Our ego" resists it. We say that we are able to become, on our own, gods. And we live the spiritual and physical death, because wherever God does not exist, sooner or later deadness comes.

Similar to us

Christ shines in the darkness of the world. He comes with the humility of the infant who is born in a cave and not with the glory of the king. He comes with the wisdom of the 12-year-old, who teaches the educated and knowers of this world. He comes with obedience to human things and keeps the laws, not only of the religious tradition, but also of the work, of honor to the family, of enlisting in the society of a people who are very difficult and hard-necked. He comes with the almightiness of miracles toward every illness and every demonic influence, not however, in order to show off, but in order to reveal that love is the mark of God. He comes with the fullness of teaching, which transfigures the heart when it becomes "good earth". He comes with the decision to die with His will, in order for us to be able, since He became in everything similar to us, for us to follow Him in the exit from hades, first our souls and then our bodies also, in order to show us that man will be saved whole. He comes in order to taste the attempt for darkness to quench Him, after He is tortured by the ingratitude, the wickedness, the sadness that the rebel man, causes to God. He comes in order to reveal to us that whoever believes in Him becomes again a child of God; He is able to be illumined and to see God, both in the present as well as in eternal life.

Forgiveness gives brilliance

Christ shines in the darkness of the world. God forgives us for our disobedience, for our decision to reject Him. And He calls us, through His Resurrection, for us to also select the path of forgiveness, to resurrect with Him. Just as we, before God are free, and we choose by sinning, to reject His light, thus also whoever grieves us, think that their freedom is above love. Let us understand them, let us speak to them, let us forgive them, so