

temptation of forgetting God is intense, that He has forgotten us or that He does not exist. Only that sadness is not a god-idea, a god-advantage, a god that will make us get comfortably settled. He who gives "the water changing unto eternal life" is Christ. And He is a person. And you do not know the persons as images, as ideas, as authority. You know them only if you relate with them. And Christ is the person who gives the way and the truth and the life, the resurrection of all.

But in order to come to know Him, you need to find His well, which is the Church. To receive the water of baptism and of rebaptism in the relationship with Him, through love for Him, prayer, worship and the eucharist, repentance. And all these things become cause for you to abandon the water bucket of the world and to announce to everyone that "come see". To quench your thirst through communion with the personal God and to call others also to quench their thirst with you.

Let us seek Christ

Many of us who are Christians have the same image about God as those who reject Him. We believe in God for our advantage, for the things handed down from our fathers, for the idea, for the authority. And our mouth and our soul are embittered by the insects of sin, because we are not really quenching our thirst. So, let us seek Christ, so that we can truly quench our thirst. Christ is risen

Fr. T. M

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020, SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN *The Holy Apostles Andronicus and Junia, Holy Godbearing Nectarius, the Builder of the Holy Monastery of Varlaam of Meteora, Theodotos the Martyr of Ancyra & the 7 Virgin-martyrs, Athanasios, Archbishop of Christianopolis, The New Martyrs of Batak, Bulgaria, Nicholas the Younger who was martyred in Metsovo, Epirus*

TONE OF THE WEEK : Fourth Tone

EOTHINON : Seventh Eothinon

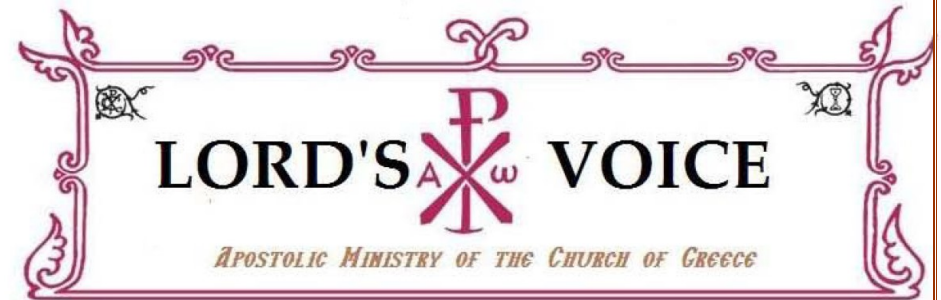
EPISTLE READING : Acts of the Apostles 11:19-30

GOSPEL READING: John 4:5-42

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020, SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN, *Symeon the Stylite of the Mountain, Saint Vincent of Lerins, Meletios the Commander & his Companion Martyrs, Gregory, Archbishop of Novgorod*

EPISTLE READING : Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34

GOSPEL READING : John 9:1-38



68TH YEAR MAY 17 2020 PAMPHLET #20 (3494)

THE DEER AND THE SPRING

One of the most beautiful images of the Psalms of the Old Testament is also that of the deer (Psalm 41) that longs to drink and to be cooled down by the springs of water, just as in its innards it feels intense burning from the small insects – the little snakes – that it has swallowed together with the grass. The snakes have poisoned and embittered the mouth of the deer, but also cause great thirst. In which case the deer hastens to drink water, in order to disemitter its mouth and to quench its thirst. So, the Psalmist also refers to the soul, that longs for God, because it is thirsty and feels in its being, the bitter taste from sin and evil. God becomes the spring, from which man is constantly able to receive "the water of immortality".

The food of the world

The Samaritan woman, in the passage that we read on the fifth Sunday after Pascha (John 4:5-42), asks from Christ to give her that water, which, if she would drink it, she would never thirst again. The woman understood the material water. However, Christ in his dialogue with her, sets out the conversation from the material things, in order to lead her to the relationship with God. Like the deer, the Samaritan woman, as also every human being that seeks meaning and truth in this life, adopts the food of the world, in other words, the ideas, the currents of religion, of descent and of the society in which he belongs, it's traditions handed down from the fathers, but also the relationship with others – she had five husbands and the sixth one was not her lawful husband. She was adopting, in other words, the grass which feeds temporarily, but together with this also, the small insects. The sin of egocentricism. Persistence in the logic that, because death awaits us, we need to enjoy our life as much

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL JOHN 4:5-42

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city

and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the city and were coming to him. Meanwhile the disciples besought him, saying "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him food?" Jesus said to them, "My food is

to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony. "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard ourselves, and we know that this is indeed Christ the Savior of the world."

as we possibly can. Our choice to be discussing about God, without however, living God.

And thus, the Samaritan woman, while she was being fed by the world, its religion and its ideas, was not able to truly quench her thirst. She remained only on the surface conversation about where God should be worshipped and with whom each person is able to keep company with. So, for this reason also, the water that she was drinking was material. They were ideas. It was not a person. However, only through the spring of water is the deer able to quench its thirst from the clear water. And the spring of water is God who created the world and rejuvenated it with the Resurrection of Christ.

We and searching

The Samaritan woman expresses searching. The person of every age also is searching. Especially of our own age, in which the snakes of sin and of evil have become beastly. To pleasure-loving and selfishness, the temptation of despair has also been added, because whereas "we had everything and wanted even more", now we feel that we lost the things that we had calculated were enough for our self-contentedness. The