

A true Christian, in the end, is he who himself becomes the synagogue, for Christ to dwell in. His heart, his being, his mind, everything is offered to Christ, so that his entire life be altered from “cast the net”, from throwing the material nets to find food, to “cast the beginning of repentance and of love”, in order to find spiritual food and life. And then he becomes a being who loves, forgives, and opens up, not only prayerfully, but also to lenience and the care for the others, even also, for those who do not understand and are not living the truth. Christ was sacrificed for all people.

Let’s seek Christ and life in the Church and let us impart this message of eternal life to everyone!

Fr. T. M

SUNDAY, JUNE 21 2020, 2ND SUNDAY OF MATTHEW *Julian the Martyr of Tarsus , Julian the Martyr of Tarsus , Terentios, Bishop of Iconium, Nikitas the New Martyr of Nisyros.*

TONE OF THE WEEK : *First Tone*

EOTHINON : *Second Eothinon*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans 2:10-16*

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 4:18-23*

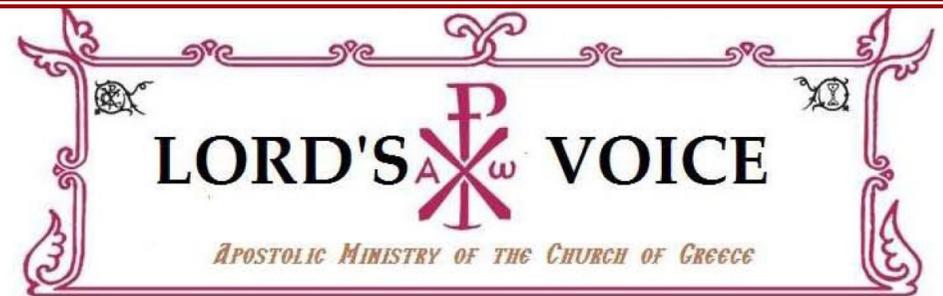
SUNDAY, JUNE 28 2020, 3RD SUNDAY OF MATTHEW *Finding of the Relics of Cyrus and John the Unmercenarys, Pappias the Martyr, Righteous Fathers Sergius and Herman, Founders of Valaam Monastery, Synaxis of the Icon of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos, Paul the Physician of Corinth, Sergios the Magiste.*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans 5:1-10*

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 6:22-33*

‘VOICE OF THE LORD’, a weekly pamphlet of Orthodox faith and life of the “Apostolic Ministry of the Church of Greece”. Iasiou 1, 115 21 Athens. Publisher -Director . Metropolitan of Phanouriou Agathangelos, Composition, tel. 210.7272.331. Execution, tel. 210.7272.338. It is distributed for free by the sacred churches. From the Press of the Apostolic Ministry.

THE ‘VOICE OF THE LORD’ in all the world through the Internet:
www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr



68TH YEAR JUNE 21 2020 PAMPHLET #25 (3499)

THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE CHURCH

After the calling of the first disciples, Christ was going about all of Galilee. He was teaching in the synagogues of the Jews; He was preaching the joyous message about the coming of the Kingdom of God and He was healing people from every illness and every infirmity (Mt. 4:18-23). Christ was preaching in a specific place. The synagogues for the Jews, was something corresponding to today’s churches for us. Jewish worship in the synagogue included hymning God and teaching the word of God, The Bible was read, and the will of God was interpreted, based upon which the Jews were called to proceed in their life. Christ utilizes the area, the tradition, and the manner with which the Jews had organized their religious life, in order to bring the message of the Kingdom of God to them, but also to heal there, where He knew that the people would gather, all those who had need, to show them, in other words, the mercy and the compassion of God. Christ does not abolish the way of the Jews, nor the location. He prepares them though, and together with them also, the entire world, for the great change: the worship of God will not just be hymning and preaching, but it will also include the offering of the Body and the Blood of Christ for the

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 4:18-23*

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

So, the Church and the temple comprise the new synagogue in the journey of faith. But what are we seeking from God every time we enter into His we enter into His church? What are we seeking from the Church, when we maintain that we belong to it?

What do we believe about the Church?

For some, the Church functions as an opportunity to satisfy their material needs. Some do not have a good thought, either about their fellow men nor about the clergymen. Some seek from the Church to change, to become more contemporary, and until this happens, they choose to abstain or their circumstantial presence within her. Others see the Church as the bearer of culture, tradition and history. They want her to function as a museum of the past, which will preserve artifacts,

rituals, icons of another age. Others, who are living from the Church, want their justification from her. Swayed by their ambition, they have the sense that if the Church does not have the same

viewpoint as the one they have, does not make the choices which they want, then they are able to reject everyone and everything and to make themselves the criterion and the center of the world.

Faith, the word of truth

Christ was entering into the synagogues. He was discussing with the Jews, was taking in their thoughts and was giving them answers. The same thing occurs today also, but in every age, with the Church. The Mission of the Church is to catechize whoever comes into her and to reveal the word of Truth, who is Christ, to give them the joy of hearing and experiencing the Gospel, in other words, the message of the Kingdom of God, which "is within us", but also to heal them from every weakness of soul, spirit, but also of body, through the miracle working of faith, of the power that her Saints offer to us, of love which is proclaimed in every gathering.

The Christian offers and is offered

A true Christian is he who seeks the word and, primarily the Word. It is he who wants to live according to the Gospel and feels the joy of the Kingdom of God, even if the world is in crisis. It is he who finds in the Church the little or the much, whether the material or the spiritual, and offers and is offered. A true Christian is he who develops the messages of the faith, he discusses them, ponders them, he seeks the Church to be alive, but in no way rejects the person and the institutions. He respects the fishermen of men.