

slander, a perversion of the Gospel message, an interpretation of life based on our own thoughts, our “ego”. We then become “correctors” of God Himself and of His Gospel. And without realizing it, in the end, we blaspheme His name.

When Christ was healing the two blind men and one deaf possessed fellow, the Pharisees, living all this doubt of His person, refused to accept that He is the Son of God and they hastened to accuse Him that “in the ruler of the demons He is casting out the demons” (Mt. 0:34). They themselves became identified with the ruler of the demons, and they made their “ego” the criterion for interpreting the world and God. And because He did not fit into this, they rejected Him. Let us not be swayed into this trap, and let us trust God and our Church, especially in everything that we have a difficulty interpreting

Fr. T. M

SUNDAY, JULY 26 2020, 7TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW, *The Holy Hieromartyrs Hermolaus, Hermippus, and Hermocrates, Paraskeve the Righteous Martyr of Rome, Prisca the Righteous Martyr, Moses the Hungarian, Jacob Netsvetov the Enlightener of Alaska.*

TONE OF THE WEEK : *Second Plagal Tone*

EOTHINON : *Seventh Eothinon*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul’s Letter to Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5*

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 9:27-35*

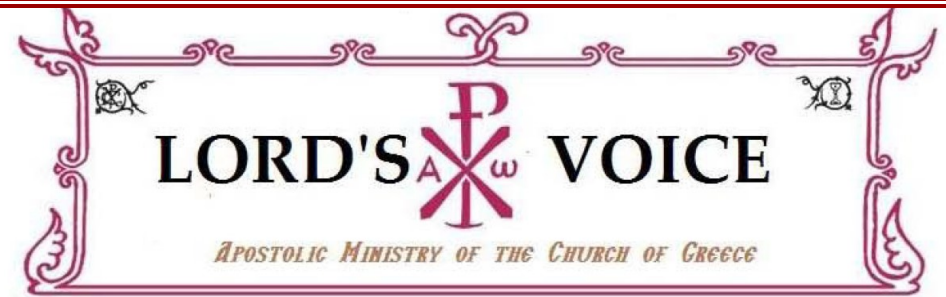
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 2020, 8TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

Translation of the Relics of Stephen the Protomartyr , Holy Glorious New Martyr Theodore of Dardanellesr, Phocas the Martyr, Plegmund, Archbishop of Canterbury

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians 1:10-17*

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 14:14-22*

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68TH YEAR JULY 26 2020 PAMPHLET # 30 (3504)

THE DISPUTATION OF CHRIST

Christ was and is permanently doubted. The cause of doubting is freedom, the greatest gift that was given to us! The preeternal apostasy of the devil and of the demons, which took on a duration, became solidified and is non reversable, because it is the sole reason for the existence of these spirits. The angels exist to worship God and to rejoice with their communion with Him and the world that He created. The devil and the demons hate God and put themselves continually in His place, resulting in them not being able to exist otherwise. Fire has been prepared for them, after the Second Coming, which however, they are already living ontologically, experientially, from the moment when the love they received from God, was altered into hate and wickedness.

The shaking of faith

But also, we humans often chose the demonic path of rejecting God’s love. We do not accept that God loves us. So, for this reason, in season – out of season, we dare to doubt whatever God gives to the world but also to us. Life, but also the capability of joy and of completeness. The surpassing of pain, illness and death. Sometimes, we also reject God’s wonders. Events which surpass our natural

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 9:27-35*

At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons."

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

capabilities, and which very obviously cannot be interpreted with the finite capabilities of our logic.

If this is expected for the unbelievers, this often also happens with the believers. God's love and His providence for our persons is doubted by them. We think that God is obligated to fulfill our wills as a recompense for our religiosity. To make the others think as we wish. To safeguard us from the problems which human relationships have. And to give magic solutions for our difficulties, to prove to us that He exists and that He is present in our life. And if God does not intervene in the way we seek, grief, disappointment and His rejection comes about. However, God acts with our salvation as the criterion. He sees the true benefit of our existence, that cannot be limited to the

fulfillment of our small wills, so that we can be pleased. On the other hand, it suits us to not undertake the responsibilities for our own life and to render them to God. Thus, we are never to blame for evil and failure, but also we do not need to undertake the cost of our choices and to set out to correct them, as much as is feasible, with the enlightenment of God, and the spirit of repentance.

The trial of death

The eternity and resurrection that God grants us is doubted. Despair overtakes us before death. We often forget that God became man in order to lead us to eternal communion with Him, with the surpassing of sin and of death. The materialistic way of life and the culture of technology, and the false sense that we are able to inhibit corruption and to extend our life on our own, hardens our heart, resulting in us not being able to endure the event of death, nor to see it as Pascha, as a passage to eternal communion with God. So, for this reason, the arrows of afflictions completely crush us, and the experience of the saints, which is preserved in the Church, seems very far from our own reality.

Trust in God

Sometimes also, the way that God chose to make both His will to us, as also the life that He is suggesting to us, is doubted, in other words, the Church. The persons are a scandal for our existence. Sometimes, we lift them up very high, resulting in us identifying with them and becoming disappointed when they do not behave to us as we would want. At other times, either out of envy, or from weak faith, we search to find faults, for us to comfort our thought for our own imperfections, or for us to justify ourselves. Disappointment then becomes anger, manifest or hidden against them. And anger becomes