

Christ is walking on the waves in order to show His disciples and each one of us that we're not on our own. That death is not able to defeat us, if we believe in Him, even if the dawn is delaying and wind is contrary. So long as we leave our ego aside, our knowledge, our trust in secular certainty and in our own self, and that we seek with courage that He stop the wind and direct the boat of our life into the calm waters of the Church. Into light, love and the joy of communion with Him who resurrects us and makes us not be defeated by every hardship. And here, the decision is personal, but also collective. Because we all, and each one of us, is able to enter onto the boat of life- aside from his own toils, his own traditions, the way he sees the journey and the trials- to inspire in the other person the victory against weak faith. The communion with the theandric person of the Lord. And then we will pass to the opposite shore, both of the present life, as well as to eternity

Fr. T. M

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 2020, 9TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW** *The Holy Apostle Matthias , Anthony the Martyr of Alexandria, Afterfeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, , Constantine, Patriarch of Constantinople, Euthymios the Hieromartyr, Metropolitan of Rhodes*

**-tone of the week :** *Plagal Fourth Tone*

**EOTHINON :** *Nineth Eothinon*

**EPISTLE READING :** *St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 3:9-17*

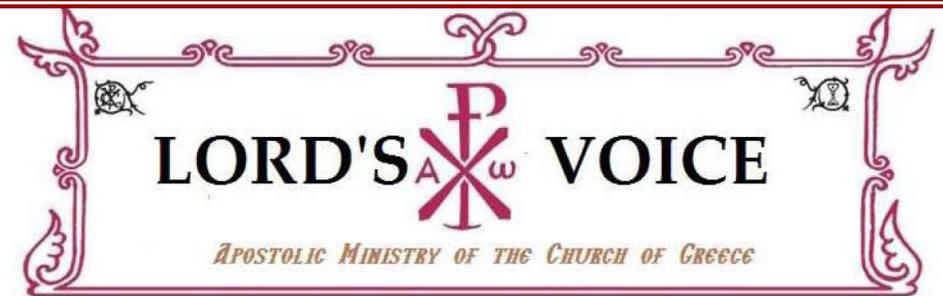
**GOSPEL READING :** *Matthew 14:22-34*

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 2020, 10TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

*Translation of the Image of Our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, , Diomedes the Physician & Martyr of Tarsus, Nicodemus the New Martyr of Meteora, Timothy of Euripus, founder of the Monastery of Pentele , Gerasimus of Cephalonia, Holy Monk Penteles, Afterfeast of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, The Six Martyrs Dorotheos, Sarantis, Jacob, Seraphim, Demetrius and Basil who contested in Megara , Manuel and John the New Martyr, Stamatios the Martyr, Apostolos the New-Martyr.*

**EPISTLE READING :** *St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16*

**GOSPEL READING :** *Matthew 17:14-23*



**68<sup>TH</sup> YEAR AUGUST 9 2020 PAMPHLET # 32 (3506)**

## THE STORM-TOSSED BOAT

With a poetic image, the Evangelist Matthew refers to the hardship of the Lord's disciples in lake Gennesaret, immediately after the miracle of the multiplication of the five loaves and the two fish in the desert place and the satiation of thousands of people. Christ allowed His disciples to pass to the opposite shore of the lake with their little boat, and He Himself remained on the mountain alone in order to pray. The boat however, "was beaten" (Matthew 14:24) by the waves, because the wind was contrary. And then Christ appeared walking on the waves and He made the wind calm down.

### The fear of loneliness

The "beaten boat" was the trip of the disciples without Christ. Whereas they were familiar with storms, since the boat was their own and they were experienced sailors, their heart filled with fear and agony, because they felt alone in this hardship. Our life is also corresponding. It is not only the material hardships, which we are experiencing in the trip of life. It is mainly the fear and agony about what will happen, on account of the fact that we feel that we are alone. When we do not see

## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 14: 22 - 34*

At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they entered the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

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the presence of God, because we are certain of our knowledge, of our own powers, of our ability to handle the boat of our life, day and night, independent of the winds and when a big trial comes, sometimes unexpectedly also, we are tortured. And such trials seem incomprehensible, when we have the feeling that we are unwoundable by evil and we see it threshing.

### **The various forms of death**

"The beaten boat" was the trip of the disciples on account of the fear of death. They must have thought that it was possible that they who lived as sailors in the sea and who knew it well, were in danger

of losing their life. We contemporary people also experience corresponding fear. Whereas we have every good of civilization, the help of science, of medicine, of technology, we ascertain that death lurks. And there are various forms of death. It lies in the weakness of the others to understand us, to share the way of our thought, to respond to these things that we are offering them, in these things that we would be able to help them with to be happy, but also for them to give us the joy of feeling precious for them. It lies in the weakness of the body, of the mind, of the heart to keep its youth, its strength, its thirst for the journey that will last for years, to surpass the corruption. It lies in the weakness of the soul sometimes to hope in the gift-giver of eternity Christ, to seek light and love.

### **Weak faith**

"The beaten boat" was the trip of the disciples because faith is not strong. They have seen the miracles. A little while before their teacher offered food to thousands. They know that they're not alone. They have as the basis of their journey, their religious traditions. They knew God who became a man, who met them, who called them, who selected them, who gave them himself, He showed them His strength, and nevertheless they insist on feeling on their own. They do not dare to invoke Him, to pray to Him at that difficult time, because rationalism is huge inside them, and faith lessens or becomes exhausted. It is the human "ego" that enters in front of every difficult time. It is their weakness to feel that He in whom they were called to believe is next to them and is observing them, even if they do not see Him. This is also our own path. First our "ego" and afterwards faith. First the way of our religious traditions and of our character. Simultaneously however, we are unable, from our weak faith, to entrust everything into His own hands, despite the fact that we know that He exists.