

forth self-sufficiency. For us to deny the thanksgiving and to put forth our right. For us to think that God will no longer occupy Himself with us. And whereas He insists, sending His Son, our Christ, we insist on keeping the world egocentrically for us. And we take Christ “out of the vineyard”, out of our life, for us to kill Him, to say that He does exist for us, so that we consider that everything belongs to us.

God will return. At the time of our death, our judgement will take place. And then the world will be given to others, who will know that good housekeeping, creativity, providence, God’s plans, and the Divine Oeconomy have love as its basis. Just that together with love, righteousness coexists. Because it also shows forth the truth. And the only truth is God.

Let us again find, in the life of the Church, the meaning of our own life also, before God, before our neighbor, before our own self!

Fr. T. M

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 2020, 13TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

The Commemoration of the Miracle Wrought by Archangel Michael in Colossae (Chonae, Holy Martyr Calodote.

TONE OF THE WEEK : *Fourth Tone*

EOTHINON : *Second Eothinon*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians 16 : 13 - 24*

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 21 : 33 - 42*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 2020, SUNDAY BEFORE HOLY CROSS

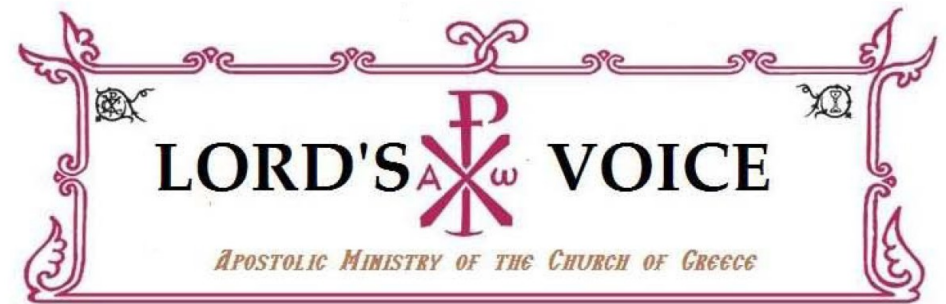
Forefeast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross, *The Consecration of the Church of the Holy Resurrection (Holy Sepulchre), The Consecration of the Church of the Holy Resurrection (Holy Sepulchre), Cornelius the Centurion & Martyr, Aristides the Philosopher, Hierotheos the Righteous of Iveron Monastery, Mount Athos.*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul’s Letter to Galatians 6:11-18*

GOSPEL READING : *John 3:13-17*

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68TH YEAR SEPTEMBER 6 2020 PAMPHLET # 36 (3510)

GOD, THE WORLD AND US

One of the most moving parables for the world and man, is that of the wicked farmers. A little before His passion, Christ describes who God is, who man is and who the world is. He uses, as He customarily does, an image from the life of people and specifically from viticulture.

The householder Father

God is characterized as a “householder”. With a series of verbs, that witness word and action, the manner with which He reveals himself to us is revealed. “He planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country.” (Mt. 21:33). The world is a vineyard that was planted by God. The vineyard produces grapes, which feed and gladden man with the wine. The grapes have a distinct beauty. They witness abundance and frugality. Abundance with the full view and beauty that they have on the vine. Frugality with the small fruits, which sweeten and satiate, but one does not need to eat many of them.

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL MATTHEW 21:33-42

The Lord said this parable, "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'"

Joy and safety in the Church

God put limits on the world, hedging it in. Everything is ours, but there is also something that does not belong to us. This is the capability for us to become gods by grace on our own. Theosis comes inside the vineyard, through communion with God. Because the vineyard is not only material. It is the Church herself, that is the world in which the relationship with God gives the meaning of life. If we go out of the boundaries of the vineyard, then we depart from the joy and safety which God grants us. The departure is sin. Everything which is outside of the boundaries of the vineyard may make us feel temporarily free, but hands us over to evil and sin.

God however, also dug a wine press. He gave us the opportunity to rejoice. He blessed its life and fruits. Love, the meeting

of the harvesters who bring the fruit of the vineyard, in order to press them in the wine press, to make the must and wine. The must produces products which feed. If 'it boils' it becomes the wine of joy and life. It is not just one person who tramples on the grapes, but many. Our Church gives us the opportunity to rejoice together with the others, in the union and the area of love, as occurred in older times, when the harvest and the trampling of the grapes was a feast with everyone's participation.

God however, also built a tower. He left, in other words, room also for the wine to be prepared in His basements, but also for whoever is living in the vineyard, to dwell and rejoice. The Church is the tower of God's providence in the world. And this tower makes us fight also for the daily bread and for the bread of true life with the knowledge that everything belongs to God.

The invitation of love and righteousness

God however, cedes the vineyard and everything in it to the farmers, to the people, to us, that is. He himself leaves. He entrusts the world to us and gives us the freedom to fight in it. To rejoice. For us to reap its goods, but also with love, to share whatever was given to us with our fellow man. God sends to the world those who remind us that there is always a portion that belongs to Him. This is love. Gratitude. The "I thank you" for all that He gave us and at the same moment, the blessing for us to share the gifts of His love which were given to us, whether these are material, whether spiritual goods. Thus we return to God His portion, which is that we resemble Him, by giving to others.

Some of us, however, resemble the evil farmers. We ignore God, because we don't see Him with our physical eyes. Because we have so much trust in our own self and in our logic, in our weapons and our powers, where we think that we can scorn Him and kill whoever seeks God's portion from us. For us to deny love and to put