

The Angels and faith

The sign of faith in surpassing the reality is also the presence of the holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel and all the holy Archangels and heavenly powers. For us to believe in the noetic world, that surpasses the boundaries of our logic, seems naive and an impasse. However, the marks of the presence of Angels in the life of the world, the miracles that they have done, but also the witness of our Church, both in their visitations to persons who were protagonists in the life of faith, in the Virgin Mary, in Joseph, in Zechariah, the disciples, the apostles Peter, Paul and Philip and a multitude of others, as also the figures of the Old Testament, in Abraham, and Jacob, Gideon, the prophets, show us that what is incomprehensible is not nonexistent, the eyes of faith are needed in order for them to be seen. Let us live this faith in Church!

Fr. T. M

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 08, 2020, 7TH SUNDAY OF LUKE, *Synaxis*

of the Archangel Michael & the other Bodiless Powers: Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salaphiel, Jegudiel, & Barachiel

TONE OF THE WEEK : *First Plagal Tone*

EOTHINON : *Eleventh Eothinon*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 2:2-10*

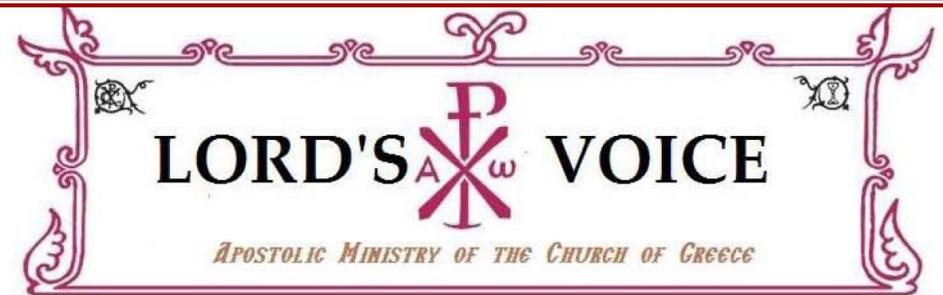
GOSPEL READING : *Luke 8 : 41-56*

Sunday, November 15, 2020, 8TH SUNDAY OF LUKE, *Nativity*

Fast Begins , Guria, Shamuna, and Habib, Martyrs and Confessors of Edessa Salaphiel, Jegudiel, & Barachiel , Thomas, Archbishop of Constantinople

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:4-10*

GOSPEL READING : *Luke 10:25-37*



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FAITH GIVES LIFE

Christ gives two important messages to people, with the miracles that He performs, after His return from the land of the Gadarenes in Capernaum. The first is comprised in the fact that He Himself is Life and He gives life, both biological as well as social, whereas the second, that faith is the presupposition for the miracle and not the miracle for faith.

Victory over death

For twelve years, a hemorrhaging woman is suffering. Beyond the physical filth and exhaustion from the hemorrhaging, the illness, does not allow her to have children; it does not allow her to get married, because then marriage was the sole aim for a woman to have meaning in her life. The woman approaches Christ with the feeling that she is impure for the law and people. And at the moment, when she touches Christ, the (edge) of His garment, and furthermore secretly, her life changes. One moment of practical faith erases twelve years of trial. Furthermore, she is able to participate in social life, and this is the reason for which Christ calls her publicly to reveal herself. Faith does not leave us hidden, but gives us the courage to reveal our face and God's benefactions to everyone and for us to set out from the beginning.

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (LUKE 8:41-56)

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As he went, the people pressed round him. And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living upon physicians and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter and those who were with him said, "Master, the multitudes surround you and press upon you!" But Jesus said, "Some one touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While he was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when he came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and he directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

The daughter of the ruler of the synagogue, Jairus was also twelve years old. Just when she would be starting out her capability, thus

she would be entering into adolescence, to live the society of her time, to be able to have a family, an illness leads her now to biological death. And Christ would evaluate the faith of her parents and would give her the opportunity to live -and together with her, for them to rejoice as well. Thus, he will show to people that faith in Him is not defeated by death. And faith supports also, whoever he who believes, loves. With faith we make a big gift to our fellow man: Christ. It lies in them if they will accept Him and will make a new beginning in their life.

"Do not cry"

It is worth us focusing on a phrase that Christ tells the parents and the people who were surrounding the dead girl: "Do not cry. She did not die, she is sleeping". (Luke 8:52). Often, we people make our judgments and evaluations both about our life, as well as about our relationship with God, based on what our senses see, based on our logic. And it is considered a great advantage for someone to be standing on his feet and be grounded. Furthermore, in areas of life such as politics, economy, worldwide course, for one to be seeing where things are going, is an absolute advantage.

The two miracles which Christ performs, show us that matters are not always like that. That realism and what is self-evident, reconciliation with reality do not suffice. That if faith in Christ and the assurance of his own presence exist, then, even that which seems impossible, can be realized. The worshippers of what is self-evident in Christ's exhortation were laughing and making fun. Amazed, they will ascertain that in Christ, everything is possible. Christ faced the same irony when He asked to learn who touched Him, and power came forth from Him in the cure of the hemorrhaging woman. Furthermore, Peter and his disciples, because they remained on what was obvious, on logic, hastened to say that His question was aimless. Christ, however, knew and knows.