

do not feel that his invitation and our presence near him, have so much value for our life, then other priorities prevail and we “at once” abdicate. And the condition itself of our heart, shows from the way that we face our fellow man. If their presence is indifferent to us, we will find a justification to deny our relationship with them. We will pass by their own thirst for communion and love with us, and we will make our choices.

The Church will continue reminding, with the celebration of the Divine Eucharist, the world, that shows in many ways, its refusal to consider God important for its life, that which she herself is. The supper of the Kingdom. And she knows that the table will never be empty. Because God will strive to fill with all those who will be able to appreciate, in the end, His invitation and love. Let us judge if our abdication from this love is worth it. If the adoption of egocentrism as an attitude of life, both on a personal, as well as are in a collective and cultural level, is worth us being deprived joy and true life which Christ is and He gives.

Fr.T. M

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 2020, 11TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

Herman the Wonderworker of Alaska & First Saint of America, The Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes of Greater Armenia, Lucia the Virgin-martyr, Gabriel the Hieromartyr, Archbishop of Serbia.

TONE OF THE WEEK : Second Tone

EOTHINON : Fifth Eothinon

EPISTLE READING : St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11

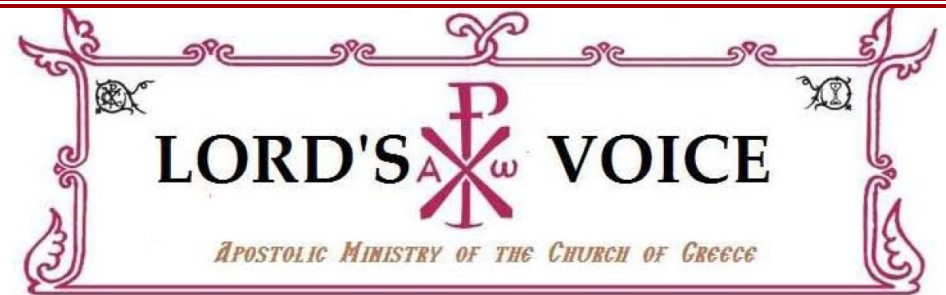
GOSPEL READING : Luke 14:16-24

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LUKE *Herman the Wonderworker of Alaska & First Saint of America, The Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes of Greater Armenia, Lucia the Virgin-martyr, Gabriel the Hieromartyr, Archbishop of Serbia.*

EPISTLE READING : St. Paul's Letter to **Hebrews 13:17-21**

GOSPEL READING : Luke 13:10-17



68TH YEAR DECEMBER 13 2020 PAMPHLET # 50 (3524)

AN INVITATION TO SALVATION

On the Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ, a few days before the great feast of the Birth of the Lord, the Church has appointed that the Parable of the great Supper be read. It reminds us of all those who believed in God and in His Son's coming into the world, and they accepted Christ's invitation to partake in the Supper of the kingdom of the heavens. It also shows us all those who, despite the fact that they were called, did not want to respond to God's movement, but they "began making excuses" (Luke 14:18), invoking excuses that keep them far away from God.

Furthermore, this refusal does not happen face to face with the house master, but it is expressed through him or those whom God sends into the world, in order to remind those invited, of the invitation, it is a rejection, in other words, to the Church, which continues calling people to partake in the life of Christ.

The Church, the supper of the Eucharist

The supper shows us that the Church is comprised in the Divine Eucharist. The house master God calls man to partake in the joy and in the life that He Himself is and offers. To abdicate from the attachment to the present world and time, to the senses, and to the knowledge which these offer, as well as also in the cares and the joys of life which darken the mind and the heart, and to choose to

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (*Luke 14:16-24*)

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen

become a fellow guest of God. At the table, the food is the Son of God, the divine communion. The Angels of God serve man. The supper is open for whoever wants to participate. And just as in every material table, supper time is a time of joy, communion and love, where a person is able to feel that he comprises a member of society, which grants the food and joy and to experience the refreshment and the renewal of his being. The Church is not an idea or a secular organization or philanthropic association or a philosophical group. Everything in it sets out from the supper and concludes in this. Because the supper will be continued in eternity, in heaven and will again be transported again to the earth when the Second Coming occurs.

The reasons for abdicating

The "everyone began at once abdicating" of the parable gives birth to ponderings. Usually, we people abdicate from whatever tires us, from whatever we are not able to achieve, from whatever makes us clash with our fellow man and we cannot endure continuing to fight. In the case of the supper, none of these things apply. The invited guests had not gotten tired by their participation in the supper of the house master. Particular toils were not demanded for them to participate in this. Accepting the invitation, and participating in the supper, would not be cause for a clash with their neighbor. Not even their priorities were enough to justify their refusal. They could leave their works for a little bit and accept the house master's invitation. Their attitude of not appearing themselves before him, to inform him of their desire to not participate in the supper, witnesses something else. Their lack of disposition to have communion with him. They don't want to partake in his table. They do not consider him an important person for their life. Why should they sacrifice their own priorities, their program, their own relationships, in order to participate in a supper, which the house master is granting, who does not say anything, in the end, in their soul?

What is God and what is man?

In our life, moments come when we are called to make decisions that show our heart's disposition, both toward God, as well as toward our fellow men. Being tired, cares, worldly joys, the power of the senses, are elements of our own self, that show what position we take to the question of what God is for us. If our life is for us and we seek joy near Him, then there's no dilemma for our participation in the supper. If it is, however, someone that we know, however, we