

which we learn and remember what God wants from us. And holiness, that shows us the chain of all those who preceded us in the struggle of faith, and who intercede for us, so that we cannot be defeated by the war of the world and of the ruler of the world of this age, to not choose the path of indifference or of denial. With the help of these “gifts” we are able to know why we are celebrating, because the Church will remain that way which will give meaning to our being and our time.

Fr.T. M

WE WISH WITH OUR WHOLE SOUL FOR 2021 FULLNESS OF JOY
AND PEACE, AN ABUNDANCE OF HOPE, UNQUENCHING
POWER TO RESIST, AND CREATION IN THE POWER OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT, WORD AND ACTION OF LOVE FOR OUR FELLOW
MAN AND CREATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021 SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY,

*Gregory of Nyssa, Dometian, Bishop of Melitene, Theosebia the Deaconess,
sister of Basil the Great & Gregory of Nyssa, Markianos, Priest and
Oikonomos of the Great Church*

TONE OF THE WEEK : Plagal Second Tone

EOTHINON : Nineth Eothinon

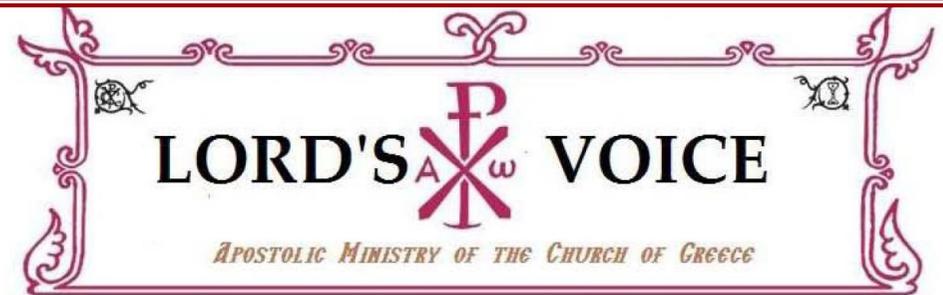
EPISTLE READING : St. Paul's Letter to *Ephesians 4:7-13*

GOSPEL READING *Mark 4:12-17*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021 12TH SUNDAY OF LUKE, *Anthony
the Great, Anthony the New of the Berropas Skete, George the New Martyr
of Ioannina, Theodosius the Emperor*

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

GOSPEL READING *Luke 17:12-19*



69TH YEAR JANUARY 10 2021 PAMPHLET # 02 (3528)

THE PRISONERS AND THEIR GIFTS OF GOD

For what reason do we celebrate the feasts of the Church? For what reason do we participate in the spiritual life of the body of Christ? The answer is not self-evident. And this, because usually from the eyes of the body as also of the soul, the perspective of faith in Christ, as Him who descended from heaven and subsequently ascended high and took captives with Him, is missing. He gave gifts to people, according to the word of the Apostle Paul: “Having ascended to height. He captured captivity and gave gifts to people” (Eph. 4:8). Usually we believe in a God who is a superior power, a creator of the world, He listens to us magically and gives solutions to our problems, sometimes He punishes us for our transgressions and we will be able to communicate with Him after our exit from this world.

The mystery of love

However, for our Church, God loves us so much so as to become one of us. In the feasts of the Church, but also every Sunday, we remember Christ's descent from heaven to earth. Our logic cannot endure to approach the mystery, if we would wish to think of its dimensions. We remain surprised before the magnitude of

THE SUNDAY EPISTLE (EPHESIANS 4:7-13)

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

the love, humility and condescension of God. On the other hand, we approach the mystery if we wish to remember the words of Paul. It is not only that He descended to the earth and became a human. He subsequently ascended to heaven and He took captives with Him. First death and despair. Subsequently, all the people who accept to be captured by His love. All those who don't consider that their life stops in the present world and time. And at the same moment He gives us as gifts "the unity of faith and the knowledge of Him as Son of God" (Eph. 4:13), in the body of Christ, in the Church. Because the Church is the most important, most beautiful gift that Christ left us.

The unity that Christ gives

We are called to the body of Christ to understand and to live the unity that faith gives us. This means that, if we believe in Christ, we are not closed in our own self, in our "ego", in our needs, nor are we trapped in the wickedness of other people, nor also in our own

passionateness, but we decide to proceed, based on the assurance that our faith gives us for the presence and love of Christ to our persons. Christ unites us. For Christ we are in Church. For Christ we defeat the old man that exists in us, but we also show patience and forgiveness to the weaknesses of other people. Christ is the measure of our life and not people, who many times are the measure of our life and not people who many times disappoint us, as we also disappoint them. Without faith, unity cannot exist. And faith is worth whatsoever sacrifice, whatsoever surpassing of the real or thought of "justice of ours", because neither are we as the others want us nor they as we want them.

The life of the Church as a feast

At the same moment, faith gives us the opportunity to know the depth of the love of the Son of God for our persons. Faith is what makes us see in Christ. the persons of the others. Faith is what makes us study the truths of the Church. To celebrate in difficult times and to not give up from the pressure and the anxiety that the world and the cares pile on us. And for this reason, the entire life of the Church is an unending feast. To remind us of the joy that the love of God offers us. And that we also are able to toil so that this love becomes our own attitude to life. For us to recognize Christ as the meaning and the purpose of our life and as Him who will capture us with His love to lead us to heaven.

Christ gave us "gifts". It is the church, the gospel and holiness, in which we are able to live faith as a celebration. The church, in which we become members of the Eucharistic gathering, the family of God, and to meet God and our fellow man. The gospel, through