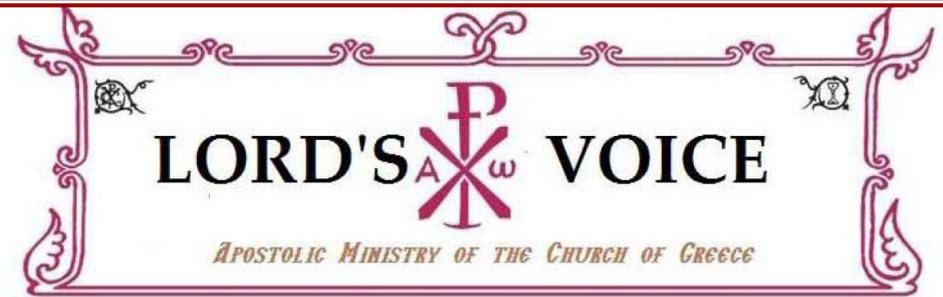


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69TH YEAR FEBRUARY 14 2021 PAMPHLET # 07 (3533)

THE PROMISES OF GOD

We people seek tangible messages in our life. We want our politicians to promise us that they will struggle for the people, and that they will not stray while exercising their office. We want the various functionaries to show self-sacrifice, to struggle so that their function ends up for the benefit of many, and for them to become an example for everyone. We want each fellow man of ours to appear honest in his life and ministry, to not abuse the trust of the others, and to respect their freedom. So, for this reason, it is also very important for whoever makes promises, to be proven trustworthy.

Ours is an age of great disappointments, because we ascertain that the happiness that our culture promises, is not easy, writing God off from our daily life, and replacing love with interest, material goods with enjoyments. That whoever expresses the institutions of society, aim more at their glory and interest, and less to help the totality of people. And, more importantly, that no matter whichever promises are given, the greatest enemy of man, which is death, is not defeated

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021 SUNDAY OF THE

CANAANITE *Holy Father Auxentius of the Mountain, Cyril, Equal-to-the-Apostles & Teacher of the Slavs, Nicholas the New Martyr of Corinth, Abraham, Bishop of Carrhes in Mesopotamia*

TONE OF THE WEEK : *Third Tone*

EOTHINON : *Third Eothinon*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1*

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 15:21-28*

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2021 SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND

PHARISEE: TRIODION BEGINS TODAY , *Timothy the Righteous , John III, Patriarch of Constantinople, Eustathius, Bishop of Antioch, Zachariah, Patriarch of Jerusalem.*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's 2nd Letter to Timothy 3:10-15*

GOSPEL READING : *Luke 18:10-14*

THE EPISTLE ST. PAUL 2ND LETTER TO CORINTHIANS

6:16-7:1

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God

They shall be my people"

To these promises, the Church, through her apostolic word, juxtaposes the promises of God, which do not have as their aim, profit and interest, nor to deceive man, but another course: that of the relationship with God, and of changing the people into the people and temple of God. "You are the temple of the living God", "I shall be their God", "they shall be my people" (2 Cor. 6:16-17) are God's promises. God has set us up as His temple, when we believe in Him, when we are living the life that He has suggested, and He has shown us with His example, in other words, the life of freedom from the passions, evils and slavery to interest, when we render the love that He offered us, and offers us, with faith in the resurrection and in eternity, when we cleanse our heart from every defilement of flesh and spirit, and we make room for Him to inhabit.

Our spiritual progress

We are His people, means that God becomes our leader, our ruler. And ruler means Him who sacrifices Himself for us, Who loves

us and cares for us, having this as the aim of His being, in other words, love. It means He who legislates, in order to show us what are the boundaries in which we can proceed, for us to know what benefits us, and what not, not in order for Himself to preserve his authority over us, but in order for us to advance and to taste unobstructed, the goods of communion with Him, without us being defeated by the devil and evil. It means He who shows mercy towards our weaknesses, not because He wants to impose an impartial justice, but because He is truly philanthropic.

Friendship and holiness

We are His people means that God is our family, our friend. And friend means He who is next to us in every trial. He who blesses our joy. He who shares our sadness and strengthens us to endure. He who does not forget either our material needs, but gives according to His measure what we truly need, so long as we entrust Him. He who indicates the truth to us. He who sanctifies our work, and through our faith, pushes us to become not simply better, but holy, in other words, for us to become transfigured within us and to love both Him as well as our fellow man.

All these things are achieved through asceticism, the social and liturgical life of the Church. In the Church we see the promises of "God being fulfilled. In our struggle, as also in the person of our neighbor. We are called furthermore, each one of us, to live this fulfillment and to share it with others. This is the path of faith, for us to "perform holiness". In the person of Christ is our God and we, together with the saints, his people. And this enlistment into the body of Christ will not cease comprising the highest title of honor and value for each one of us. And our own promise is repentance, love, and ascesis for us to remain free near Him.

Fr. T. M