

The Apostle Paul but also all the saints of our faith remind us of the great question: “do we wish to be saved?” The “yes” brings before us the word and the manner of the holy Angels: love for God, obedience to His will, doxology for His presence, desire to be with Him

and announcing this way to the world. This is also God’s challenge to our own freedom through the life of the Church. These simple, but always unique and distinct truths are the big sought for things in our life. In these, let’s remain firm, making love composition, which suits all who are more open and whoever feels the need to keep the law to the letter.

Fr. T. M

**SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021 SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY**

**PALAMAS** Hilarion the New , Herodion the Apostle of the 70, Stephen the Wonderworker

**tone of the week** : First Tone

**EOTHINON** : Nineth Eothinon

**EPISTLE READING** : St. Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3

**GOSPEL READING** : Mark 2:1-12

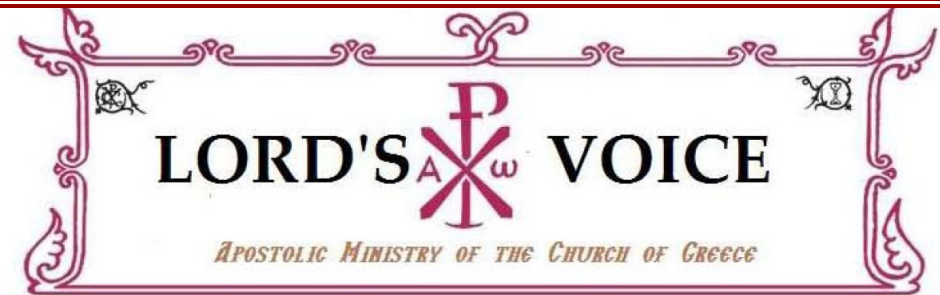
**SUNDAY APRIL 4, 2021 SUNDAY OF HOLY CROSS,** George the Righteous of Maleon, Righteous Plato the Studite, Nicetas the Hieromartyr, Struggler of Serrai (1808), Righteous Zosimas

Theonas, Archbishop of Thessaloniki, Founder and Renovator of the Sacred Monastery of Saint Anastasia of Pharmakolytria, Halkidiki

Theodoulos and Agathopous of Thessaloniki

**EPISTLE READING** : St. Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6

**GOSPEL READING** : \_Mark 8:34-38; 9:1



**69<sup>TH</sup> YEAR MARCH 28 2021 PAMPHLET # 13 (3539)**

## SALVATION AS A GIFT OF CHRIST

One of the greatest challenges that we have to face in our spiritual life is also our relationship with the past, with our tradition, with the truths that our tradition brings us. The question of how these truths are imparted to today, usually finds three answers, which become an attitude of life.

### Does preservation suffice?

The first answer has to do with the agony of many for the past to be preserved intact in our life. Thus a preservationism is born, that vows in the non-negotiable manner of the past. It is not only remaining in the habits, words, and traditions of the past. It is also the demanding them to be kept to the letter. And this proclamation of preservation is considered to make the people that follow this path authentic. Even if they are not taking in mind elements of their life itself in the past, which come, from matters, into contradiction with the past. Because the world advances, the journey of Christian life does not meet the social bases which Christianity had when it was formulated, whereas even the folklorical-social elements of the life of people (food, clothing, feasts, human relationships, ways of adopting not only religiosity but also all the factors of life) have undergone big changes due to history moving forward. The people however, who remain in the letter don’t want any change in the way of approaching the Gospel, but also the world and

life

## **EPISTLE READING : ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE HEBREWS 1:10-14; 2:1-3**

"IN THE BEGINNING, Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?

Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

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### **Does adaptation save?**

At the same moment there is another category of people, who swear in adaptation for the sake of progressing and changing society. They suggest innovations. They seek to find ways, methods and languages, even with the silencing of the teachings of the Church, in how people see life today. They want yesterday to be erased. And this, without taking in mind that when constants don't exist and everything begins changing, neither will what is new wipe out everything, since whoever does not want to be convinced, will not be convinced, whereas the reactions on the part of the preservationist people will be great. Whatsoever adaptations cannot happen without dialogue and without love. The agony for the

Church to find ways to speak to contemporary man and especially to the young person, does not justify everything, if this is not done with discretion, since also whoever is less open to changes also belong to the body of Christ.

### **Faithful to the truth**

Before these two views, the Apostle Paul very clearly proclaims: "We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away." (Heb. 2:1). Let us remain more faithful to the truths we heard, so that we never stray. The word of Paul does not refer to forms, to teleturgical forms, to ways of organization or even also to ways of expression. It refers to truths which we have heard and furthermore, by Christ himself, and which are verified as authentic by whoever heard Him speak. These truths deal with our salvation. And so for this reason, the Apostle cries out: "how shall we escape having neglected such a great salvation?" How shall we escape the condemnation, having neglected the salvation that Christ gave us?

No human form, teleturgical, communicational, dialoguing is important before salvation. And the Church is neither conservative nor progressive. She is authentic, because her aim is people's salvation from evil and death. And this cannot come without faith in Christ as the Savior of the world., without accepting the dogmas as boundaries of faith, without keeping the commandments of the Gospel and at the same moment, without meeting God and one's fellow man in our daily life. Because salvation comes as a gift of Christ in the continuation of our whole life, and not only if we are performing at specific moments, our spiritual duties.