

Even if this will is also a cross. We do not hope, in order to avoid difficulties, but in order to defeat them through our relationship with Christ.

We people hope in order to fulfill our will. Hope in God does not also exclude this fulfillment, but it does not remain there. The will of God is our salvation, the finding, in other words, of the goal of our life and trust in Him, which will never lead us to the shame of us not having an orientation. And in fulfilling the will of God, in the life of the Church, we find love, joy and, at the same moment, the validation of our whatsoever toils, even if the path is difficult. "We who took refuge in God ought to remain firm in these things that we hope. This hope secures us and makes us firm in soul like an anchor" (Heb. 6:18-19). Let us again find this path, so that all our hopes have meaning, illumined in the perspective of the covenant of God with us, in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Fr. T. M

**SUNDAY APRIL 11, 2021 SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN OF CLIMACUS**

*Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum , Pharmuthios the Anchorite, Guthlac the Hermit of Crowland*

**tone of the week** : *Third Tone*

**EOTHINON** : *Eleventh Eothinon*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 6: 13-20*

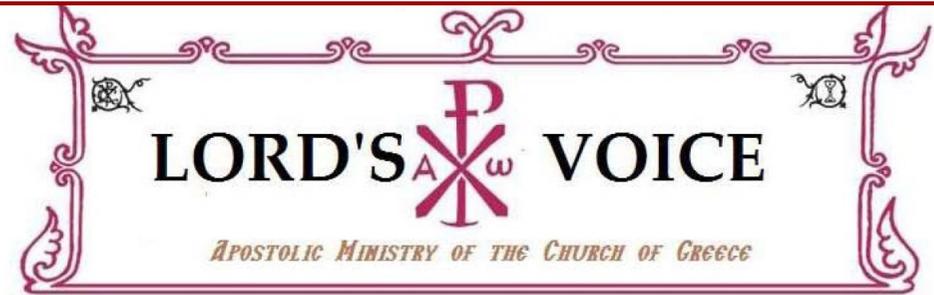
**GOSPEL READING** : *Mark 9:17-31*

**SUNDAY APRIL 18, 2021 SUNDAY OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT ,**

*Holy Father John the Righteous, disciple of St. Gregory of Decapolis , Euthemios the Enlightener of Karelia, Cosmas, Bishop of Calcydon, Cosmas, Bishop of Calcydon ,John the New Martyr of Epiros , Athanasia the Wonderworker of Aegina*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 9:11-14*

**GOSPEL READING** : *Mark 10:32-45*



**69<sup>TH</sup> YEAR APRIL 11 2021 PAMPHLET # 15 (3541)**

**THE ANCHOR OF HOPE**

In what do we people hope for? Some of us in life, that it will bring things according to our desires. Others in our toil, that it will not go lost. Most, in others, that they will love us and will help us to become happy. Everyone in our own self, that in the difficult time, he will not appear lower than our expectations. And some also in God, that He will not allow something bad to happen to our own selves or to those whom we love, but He will bring everything "according to our heart". And so, for this reason, we pray to Him, whereas, we get angry and get distressed when we see that these things in which we hope, are not fulfilled. How genuine however, are our hopes?

**"May the name of the Lord be blessed"**

We hope, when we have posed achievable goals. When we have worked and feel that there is nothing else that we could do. The difficulty, however, lies in what degree we are ready to handle our defeat, when we see that our hopes are not fulfilled. If, in other words, we will transpose responsibilities onto the others, who were not able to understand us or to aid us, or if we will do a self a critique for our per chance mistakes. Another difficulty has to do with how we handle the joy from the fulfillment of our hopes: as settling down, as a beginning of new aims, as a cause of insatiability, as a grounding of the mind and of haughtiness, or with humility and recognition of God's providence

## **EPISTLE READING : ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE HEBREWS 6:13-20;**

BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek

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glorification and thanksgiving? Does the "may the name of the Lord be blessed" accompany, I wonder, the joy of happiness, the sadness of defeat, which safeguards us from pride and despair?

### **Covenant, old and new**

In our relationship with God, our Church calls us to remember that we can hope in the covenant that God made with humanity, the agreement, in other words, through which the human race is reformed, thanks to the presence of Christ in the world. In the period before Christ, the covenant had to do with a

man and with a people, Abraham and the Jews. In the period of the history "after Christ," the covenant has to do with all people and with all peoples. God's blessing does not have to do only with our whatsoever material progress, nor with our survival as humans who believe in Him. It is a blessing of hope, that springs from faith. And hope has to do with the fact that God is next to us, so that we can endure with the help of faith, the trials of life, that we not be defeated by our mistakes and our passions, that we defeat even death. Hope however, passes also to those who follow after us. Faith in God is the greatest acquisition, is the covenant which God offers us, and in which God will also be the guarantor, but also the helper.

### **We proceed forward**

This covenant surpasses our existential anxiousness and in our loneliness. The fear of death. The feeling that the others do not understand us. Hope does not keep us in a passivity. The Christian does not force the love of the others, and the acceptance of his person. He does not expect them to lead him to happiness and to joy (something that usually happens in the opposite direction), nor does he use the others in order to cover his own needs without seeing what they also need. The Christian proceeds forward. He is not simply a source of optimism and life also for the others, but he shares the joy and the certainty of the love of God, showing that "we are the Lord's" (Rom. 14:8). He keeps, as the anchor of hope, the infallible promise of God that He will be with us all the days of our life. And in every difficulty of life, he goes forward. He does not hide. Either with the word or with prayer or with works, he declares that he hopes in the will of God.