

Christ enters into the holy City, having resurrected Lazarus. He gave the answer to who God is, and how the problem of death can be solved. And He calls us, with the help of the Apostle's words, to keep "whatever is true, chaste, righteous, pure, worthy of love, of good fame, whatever is related to virtue and is worthy of praise" (Phil. 4:8). At the same moment, for kindness to be the manner in which we also behave and think, for the Lord's entrance to become the permanent condition in our hearts. This path demands toil. Nevertheless, we need such a life, with Him giving it meaning

Fr. T. M

**SUNDAY APRIL 25, 2021 PALM SUNDAY** *Mark the Apostle and Evangelist*

**TONE OF THE WEEK** : -

**EOETHINON** :-

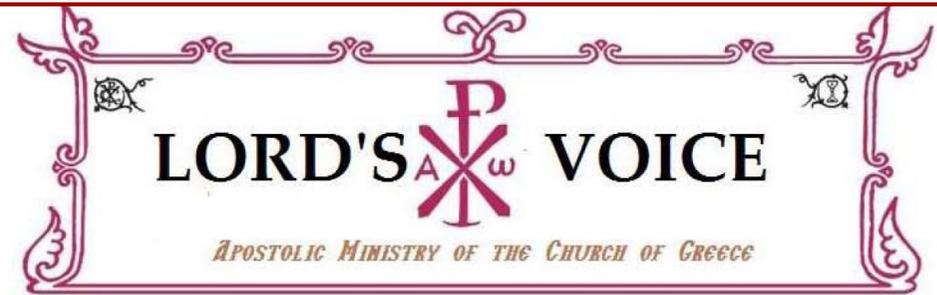
**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9*

**GOSPEL READING** : John 12:1-18

**SUNDAY MAY 2, 2021 GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA** *Removal of the Relics of St. Athanasius the Great, Hesperos & Zoe the Righteous, Boris, King & Enlightener of Bulgaria (Michael in Baptism), Jordan the Wonderworker*

**EPISTLE READING** : *Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8*

**GOSPEL READING** : John 1:1-17



**69<sup>TH</sup> YEAR APRIL 25 2021 PAMPHLET # 17 (3543)**

## THE MEETING WITH CHRIST

The expectation of the meeting with God concerned and concerns each person who seeks an answer to his existential problems. Whoever believes in God changes their longing for communion with Him into certainty that that time and moment will not delay. Whoever delves into the religious tradition, seek in prayer the signs of communication with God, in the rituals and mysteries, the descent of God and His entrance into their lives. Whoever sees the relationship with God on a practical level, struggles to keep the whatsoever commandments that He addresses through the religion to whoever seeks Him, so that they have the right of the meeting. Faith in God, furthermore, gives an answer to the most difficult event of our existence, which is death.

### The God who revealed Himself to us

Our Church believes in a God who is not an invention of our mind, nor does He await death in order to meet man. She believes in a God who revealed Himself both in the Old Testament to some people and to a people, the Jewish one, as well as in the New Testament. She believes in a God who became a man, and at the same time gave people the capability of meeting Him, not awaiting them to come to Him, but He Himself entering into their life. He does not await from people to

## EPISTLE READING ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO (PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9)

BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

love Him, but He Himself first loved people and reached down to the cross and burial, showing the sacrifice that love brings into the world. He does not await from people to be delivered from their sins and to keep His commandments in order to reveal Himself to them, but He chose to show that the deeper meaning of these commandments is obedience to the Father's will, which reaches down to death.

### Closeness to God

So for this reason also, whoever believes in our Lord Jesus Christ has the right to shout "the Lord is close", the Lord is near (Phil. 4:4). And He is not close only in the eschatological dimension of the phrase, that, in other words, the moment approaches during which the world will become "new", new

thanks to the resurrection of all and the Second Coming of Christ. Closeness has to do with the meeting which Christ offers us at every moment. He is near us, as with our exit from this world, whenever it will happen, we will meet Him and will exist with Him eternally, so long as we believe and love both Him and His image which is each person. He is close also in heart, experientially, because whoever believes, also knows and lives the surpassing of his loneliness. He has as consolation the presence of Christ, who does not abandon us.

### Let us carry our cross

We are living in an age of the absence of closeness, both in human relationships, as well as in man's relationship with God. We substituted love with material goods. We substituted genuine communion with our fellow man with hate, condemnation, the egocentric will, the use of others for our own satisfaction, and fulfillment of our desires. At other times again, we lose our time in the net of the iconic reality. At the same moment, we demand from God closeness, as a satisfaction of the interests also, of our whatsoever requests, as also for Him to allow us to do whatever we want, supposedly for us to be free. We seek our resurrection without carrying a little of His cross, repenting, loving and forgiving. It does not bother us to change our emotions, like those people of Jerusalem, who on the day of Christ's entrance into the city deified him, holding palm branches and in a few days were shouting "take him, take him, crucify him". We allow, in the end, sin to prevail to the detriment of love and truth in our life, without us feeling that this is the cause of our entrapment in evil and death.