

the Apostle Thomas, to whom He appeared, in order to give him the capability of believing. To us He manifests Himself through the circumstances of life, through our neighbor, from the feeling of our mistakes or from the inability for us to change the dispositions of the others, and the humility that we feel in our defeat. He manifests Himself through the love that He has given us and from the feeling that we are not alone, if we seek Him. The burning heart for Him is the basis for us to defeat the seeming triumph of rationalism of our times, which nevertheless, is not able to give answers of life to death which surrounds us and awaits us.

The Resurrection exists. Let us set out from faith everything will be given to us. Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

Fr. T. M

SUNDAY MAY 9, 2021 THOMAS SUNDAY *The Holy Prophet Esaias (Isaiah), Christopher the Martyr of Lycea, Monk-martyr Nicholas who lived in Vuneni, of Larissa in Thessaly, Epimachos the New Martyr of Alexandria, The New Martyrs of Novo Selo, Bulgaria*

TONE OF THE WEEK : -

EOTHINON : First-

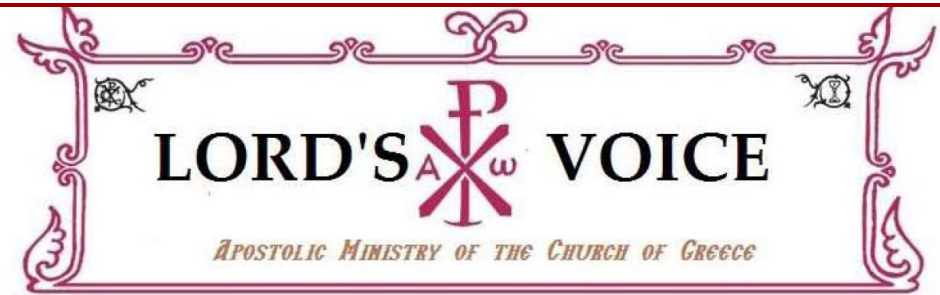
EPISTLE READING : Acts of the Apostles 5:12-20

GOSPEL READING : John 20:19-31

SUNDAY MAY 16, 2021 THOMAS SUNDAY SUNDAY OF MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN, *Theodore the Sanctified, Holy Martyr F of Blachernae, New Martyr Nicholas of Metsovo, Nicholas the Mystic, Patriarch of Constantinople, Alexandros, Archbishop of Jerusalem, Brend the Navigator*

EPISTLE READING : Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

GOSPEL READING : Mark 15:43-47, 16:1-8



69TH YEAR MAY 9 2021 PAMPHLET # 19 (3545)

THE RESURRECTION AS A BASIS OF OUR LIFE

We Christians complain about the spiritual crisis of the world. We would like to return to a dreamy yesterday, in which everything was so beautiful as regards faith, ignoring that Christ called us to live in a specific area and time, and that no past was without sins, wickedness, passions, the cross for whoever believed. On the other hand, we are not able to overlook that in specific periods of time, most people feel the need to go to church, to confess, to commune, sometimes for the good of the year and for the custom, whereas when the feasts pass, they return to the customary indifference.

Enthusiasm for faith

If we read, in any case, the texts that describe the life of the first Church carefully, we will ascertain an enthusiasm, which not even whoever of us are active members of the body of Christ, have. We also often resemble the Apostle Thomas, who was not convinced by the words of the rest of the disciples that they saw Christ. In the first Church, aside from others, “constantly more multitudes of men and women believed in the Lord and were becoming members of the Church. Even in the squares, they would bring the sick, they would lay them on beds and stretchers, so that even just the shadow of Peter could fall on some of them, when he would come” (Acts 5:14-15).

EPISTLE READING ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 5:12-20

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

Such a faith would be considered irrational, and superstitious in our times. And this, because our times have deified the power of the human mind, since it has achieved many things and has facilitated the quality of our life, whereas it has led many to deny faith in God and the Resurrection. Because only the resurrected Lord makes the shadow of an Apostle capable of healing people. And the behavior of the people of the first Church, is an attitude of humble-mindedness. They do not consider that they have the right to bother the Apostle in order to seek the cure of their relatives. His shadow suffices.

Hope does not demand

Hope does not seek attention. It does not demand. It does not even speak. It comes out of the meeting of the mind and heart with faith. And it leaves itself into God's hands and in the presence of the

Apostles. Simultaneously, this hope is expressed publicly in the squares. It is not hidden. It defeats the fear that whoever confess his faith in the resurrected Lord will have the same fate as him, due to the anger of the Jews. Faith is not a private matter, but it is expressed with boldness and this shows a heart that has decided.

So before becoming absorbed by the feeling that the world has "ruined", it is at a distance from Christ and faith, let us turn within us and let us examine our own selves, if we are in a position to consider faith in the Resurrection as the basis for the journey of our life. If we believe in a God of ethics, philosophy, tradition, habit, ready to fulfill our interests and needs, a God that exists for us only when we need Him, a God who has small importance for us before illness, death, defeat, loss, or if we believe in a Godman Lord, who, having resurrected, Himself, shows us that faith in Him has already brought the Resurrection into our own life as well. In a Godman who makes us proceed with humility, with knowledge that we are not worthy of His attention due to our achievements or whatsoever progress or of our name or of our ministry in Church.

A confession of love

The shadow shows that the resurrected Lord exists. And since He exists, we know that He loves us, whether He gives us what we desire or not. Furthermore, even the little, is everything for us, since He is hidden in it. And we do not fear to confess Him. Our participation in the ecclesiastical life is already a confession, just as also the communing of His body and blood, as also the keeping of His commandments. The confession is not the sign of boasting, but of firmness, of decisiveness, of love.

The Paschal period is a bright spiritual opportunity for us to again see our faith and the way it is expressed. We know that the resurrected Lord gives us as many opportunities as we need, as also to