

## Friends of Christ

In the Church, we live true love. In the liturgical gathering, in the communion of the body and blood of Christ, in the acceptance of repentance, in sympathy and in offering, love casts every fear out of our life. And it leads to the end of the road, which is the resurrection. That we be “friends” with the resurrected Christ, as the Evangelist John was called, whose body foretastes, incorrupt, in heaven, the definitive and his own, and our own resurrection.

Fr. Th. M.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 2021**, *The Falling Asleep of St. John the Evangelist and Theologian Removal of the Honorable Head of Apostle Andrew the First-Called*

**TONE OF THE WEEK** : *Plagal First Tone*

**EOTHINON** : *Third Eothinon*

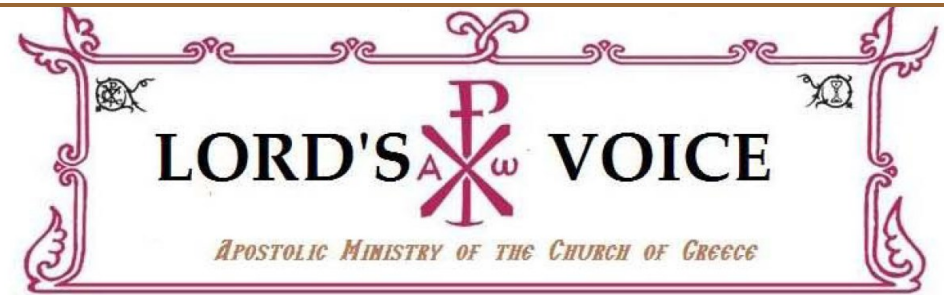
**EPISTLE READING** : *St. John's First Universal Letter 4:12-19*

**GOSPEL READING** *John 19:25-27; 21:24-25*

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3 2021, 2ND SUNDAY OF LUKE** *Dionysios the Areopagite, Rusticus and Eleutherios the Martyrs, John the Chozebite, Bishop of Caesaria*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15*

**GOSPEL READING** : *LUKE 6:31-36*



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## PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR

The Evangelist John, the beloved disciple of Christ, whose translation to the heavens the Church celebrates on September 26, formulated one of the greatest truths which makes the Christian faith distinct: “perfect love casts out fear”. (1 John 4:18), “perfect love cast out fear”. The Evangelist is referring to the love that Christ has for each person, each image of God. By extension, when a person responds to the constant calling that God addresses to him, to say “Yes” to this love, then the person also resembles God. He lives love in its fullness. And this love gives us the safest criterion that is genuine: we do not fear that we will be separated from Christ on the Day of Judgment, we do not fear anything unpleasant, no cross in our life.

## The invisible dynasts

There are many fears in our life. We fear primarily death, the biological end of life, because we do not know, we do not have the experience of what will happen to us when we shut our eyes. We fear pain, sickness, and the trial, because we do not want to live something else, except joy. We fear failure because

#### **EPISTLE READING: ST. JOHN'S FIRST UNIVERSAL LETTER 4:12-19**

No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his own Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. In this is love perfected with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and he who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because he first loved us.

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we feel that our ego is not able to endure it, that if we fail, in essence the admiration we have for ourselves is invalidated by the matters, since we see that we have limits. We fear the relationship with other people, because we're not always ready to see them as they really are and not as we would want them to be, whereas we feel that we're not ready to give them more than what we calculate that we will get. At other times, however, we fear that they also are not ready to see us as we really are, and more so, they wish to get from us, rather than to give to us. We fear the social, political, moral and personal cost when we want to receive and to implement decisions, which the others are not eager to accept, even if within us we know that these decisions are imprinting what is correct and just. We fear the loneliness from our choices, or from our opposition to the

path that whoever is maintaining the average, the habit, the lack of daring, are following, We fear evil and the devil which tyrannize the world. We fear the time that passes mercilessly, both by our body as also by our soul and marks us.

#### **The eternal lack of communion**

For the Evangelist John the greatest fear is that of hell. Of the eternal, in other words, departure from God and His love, of the eternal departure from our fellow man, the eternal lack of communion. This fear today does not touch the majority. Having sent God to the corner of our life, we choose to occupy ourselves with the other fears. In order to cure them, we go to the specialists. We spend time and money for us to be comforted. Without this being bad, nevertheless, we do not remember this big truth of the Evangelist: "perfect love casts out fear". Man's relationship with Christ cures man's main fear, that of the lack of communion. The person who believes, communes, lives, loves Christ and opens himself up to his fellow man. First because Christ forgave him, because man is not whatever and as God wants, due to sin. Secondly, because he learns to also forgive the others who are not what he would want, and so he rejoices with whatever he is able to give them, and with whatever they are able to give him. And, third, because having trust in Christ, he learns to defeat the fear of time and of death, that is hidden in every failure, in every rejection, in every cost.