

A certain philosopher writes that whatever we offer, we ought to write in the sand, and whatever they offer us, to chisel them deeply on a marble slab. The example of the tenth leper is important to comprise for us a sign pointing to our relationship with God, and with His living image in the world, people. The attitude of the rest of the ungrateful nine, let us keep in us, as an example to avoid, keeping in us the didactic reminder that ungratefulness can prove worse and a more defiling illness than the leprosy of the body.

Archim. A. A.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 16 2022 12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE,**

*Veneration of Apostle Peter's Precious Chains , Righteous Hierodeacon Makarios of Kalogeras , Romilo the Monk of Mount Athos , Nicholas the New-Martyr of Mytilene , Peusippos, Elasippos, and Mesippos the siblings, and their grandmother Neonilla*

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

**EOTHINON** : *Eighth Eothinon*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's letter to Colossians 3:4-11*

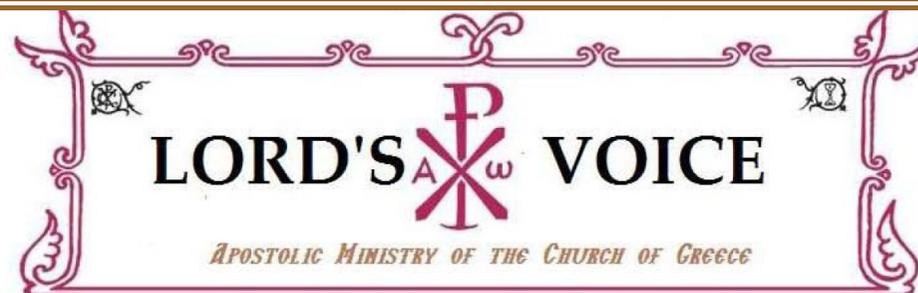
**GOSPEL READING** : *Luke 17:12-19*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24 2022 14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE,**

*Hieromertyr Clement Bishop of Ancyra, Agathangelus the Martyr , Righteous Father Dionysius of Olympus*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's First letter to Timothy 1:15-17*

**GOSPEL READING** : *Luke 18:35-43*



**70<sup>TH</sup> YEAR JANUARY 13 2022 PAMPHLET # 03 (3581)**

## **CHRIST, THE GRANTER OF LIFE**

Christ, many times during His three-year public activity, whether perceived or not by those who accompanied Him, came face to face with human illness, with the psychomatically suffering person, and as the healer of souls and bodies, He generously granted the restoration of his health.

The pen of the holy apostle and evangelist Luke preserves and describes such a case. The case of the group of ten people, furthermore, who were suffering from the chronic and very painful and with dreadful social consequences illness of leprosy. These people, keeping the “health protocols” of their age, with as loud a voice as they had, cried out to Jesus saying: “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us”, in other words, show Your mercy and heal us.

### **The nobility of gratitude**

The miracle happens, their health is restored, leprosy is cleansed, illness is cured, and full of strength and well being, the ten former lepers hasten to the priests, according to the,

### **GOSPEL READING : *LUKE 17:12-19* .**

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

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exhortation of Christ, in order to assure also, according to the Law, the restoration of their health. Only one however, and furthermore, not of the race of the Jews, upon returning, expresses his thanks and gratitude to the gift-giving Christ.

#### **The leprosy of ingratitude**

"While, where are the nine?", is the complaint of the healer Jesus. Gratitude does not add anything to Him who benefactors with love, how much more so, when "the one benefactoring and healing" is God himself. Gratitude is that flower that blossoms in the heart of the one benefactored, when inside it, there is suitable ground. The benefactored one who expresses, this greatly adorns him, it fills him with spiritual fragrance and makes him worthy of the benefaction.

Gratitude is the harmonious entry hymn for the kingdom of God. Let's remember the grateful thief, crucified on the right of the Savior, who according to an unwritten tradition, is the tenth healed former leper, who despite the fact that he followed paths outside and beyond the Law of men and of God, and he was condemned for this by people to a crucifactory death, he was not changed inside him. He kept unwithered in his heart, the blossom of gratitude, and this is what he offered with humility to the crucified Deliverer. This comprised his entry ticket, so that he could enter first into the kingdom.

It is true that many times we also have been benefactored, mainly by God. A benefaction is the gift of life and of our existence. A benefaction is our capability from our infant age to have received holy Baptism and for us to be members of the Church of Christ. A benefaction is the fact that they gave us Greek as our mother tongue, the language of the sacred gospels, of the patristic, philocalik and ascetical writings. A benefaction is our free participation in the sacred mysteries and the worship of our Church. We have been benefactored, however, also by our fellow men, many times, furthermore, without us expecting it, on a material, moral and spiritual level. And all these things, we consider almost givens, without the need being born in our heart to express the proper gratitude to God and to our fellow men. Also, of course, we ourselves have been benefactored, awaiting, however, always richly, the expression of gratitude from those who received our whatsoever benefaction. Both in the one and in the other case, we are wrong, our attitude is not pleasing to God.