

God's sight, and certainly comprises the most appropriate garment to enter the Lord's bridal chamber. If we consider that the Canaanite woman, naked and frozen in the darkness of idolatry, the first thing she needs is a garment to get warm, our Lord hearing her answer: Yes, Lord, I accept that I am a little dog, because even the little dogs eat from the crumbs that fall from the table of their masters" it already guards her with the garment of warming humility, and leads her into his joy, simultaneously offering her the gift of spiritual health to her daughter.

May the Canaanite woman's approach also become ours, in our pacing toward the blessed period of the Triodion. Let us open our spiritual wardrobe, and let us seek, with prayer and self-censuring, the appropriate garment for us to enter into the Lord's bridal chamber.

Archim. A. A.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6 2022 SUNDAY OF CANAANITE,** *Photius the Great Patriarch of Constantinople, Bucolus Bishop of Smyrna, Barsanuphios the Great and John of Gaza, Afterfast of the Presentaion of our Lord and Saver in the Temple, Ilyan of Homs.*

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

**EOTHINON** : *Eleventh Eothinon*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's letter to Hebrews 7:26-28 8:1-2*

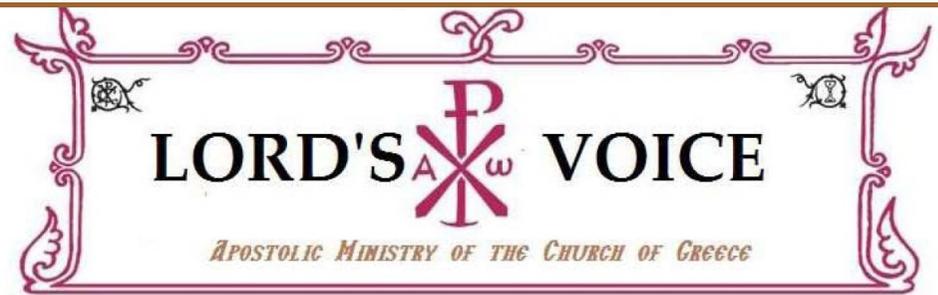
**GOSPEL READING** : *Matthew 15:21-28.*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13 2022 SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND**

**PHARISEE:** *Triodion Begins Today , Martinian of Palestine , Apostles Aquila and Priscilla , Eulogios, Patriarch of Alexandria, Symeon the Myrrhbearer of Serbia*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's Second letter to Timothy 3:10-15*

**GOSPEL READING** : *Luke 18:10-14.*



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## SALVATION, A WORLDWIDE EVENT

The longing of the Canaanite woman, a woman with a Syrophenician descent, in other words, foreign from a racial and religious viewpoint, is the curtain of our entrance into the compunctionate, pedagogical and pre-paschal climate of the compunctionate Triodion. The woman's position is familiar in the social givens of the age of Christ. Furthermore, when these are mixed also with what is from a foreign nation and a foreign tribe, then the walls become unsurpassable for the person who is building them, self-locked inside them, not however, for God, who "wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth". A passerby in the life of people, as also of the woman, is our Lord, always at the appropriate time and with the appropriate manner.

### The spiritual maturing of the Canaanite woman

His presence and preaching, a magnet that draws the heart of this hurting mother, in order for her to present to Him with all the strength of her soul, a cry for salvation, personal salvation and

### **GOSPEL READING : MATTHEW 15:21-28**

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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simultaneously related to the very painful spiritual illness of her daughter: "Have mercy on me, O Lord, my daughter is severely possessed by a demon". She faithfully seeks the double mercy of the very compassionate God: mercy for her, mercy also for her troubled child. She calls, theologizing and simultaneously confessing the Master Christ, Lord, doing – deprived of whatsoever knowledge, spiritual cultivation or other human presupposition – what the compatriots, of the same race and tongue, very learned in the law Scribes and Pharisees, in every case stubbornly are refusing to do for three entire years.

### **Incapable of understanding the offering**

As a knower of hearts, Jesus knows both her presence and her problem, but He also recognizes the disposition of her heart. The disciples, with a good disposition, on the one hand, are standing, however at the surface of the entire event, and are trying to "safeguard" the Teacher! They are calling Him to chase the woman away because she is disturbing the peace, and probably is becoming a cause for further disturbances. Christ silences them: "I have not been sent by my Father except only for the lost sheep of the people of Israel".

Christ's historical journey in the world, is a journey-invitation to "all the nations" without exceptions, without favoritism, without expecting a recompense. The salvation that Christ offers is His own Self, "who is love", therefore, the more He is shared, He is not lessened, but greatly abounds and multiplies. The goods of the kingdom, the places, we would say, in the Master's heart, can contain every human soul from creation until the recreation and from the recreation until the close of the age. Every human soul is able, making use of the God-given free will, to select or reject the heart of the Master as its dwelling place.

As a pedagogue of souls and of our bodies we see Jesus granting with medical skill, the medicines of immortality to the specific soul. His saving intervention begins with the seeming put down of the person of the Canaanite woman. To her even further cry: "Lord, help me in my misfortune", He answers her: "it is not proper for one to take the bread of the children and throw it to the little dogs".

### **The garment of the kingdom**

Humility in man is, as we know well, a great elevation in