

An analogous model of life is presented furthermore, also in today's passage from the Gospel of Mark, through which Christ is offered as the light of the world in the darkness of human matters. Four people utilize the gift of their own life, in order to serve a man who is deprived of well being and robustness of the members of his body. Working in kindness and in humaneness, which give par excellence value to the person's life, they think up an inventive trick in order to bring the sick fellow before the Lifegiver. Christ, in telling him that his sins are forgiven, makes a clear proclamation about the life which He himself is offering. His preaching becomes accepted by the sick fellow and by the simple people, not however, by the ritual-worshipping Pharisees and Scribes, who insist on the darkness of their choices. So, let's be especially careful, and invoking the intercession of Saint Gregory, let's pray to the Lord to illumine our darkness in our journey to Pascha. Amen!

Archim. A. A.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 20 2022 SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY**

**PALAMAS** *Righteous Fathers slain at the Monastery of St. Savas , Myron the New Martyr of Crete, Cuthbert the Wonderworker, Bishop of Lindisfarne , Photini the Samaritan Woman*

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

**EOTHINON** : *Sixth Eothinon*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's Letter to Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3*

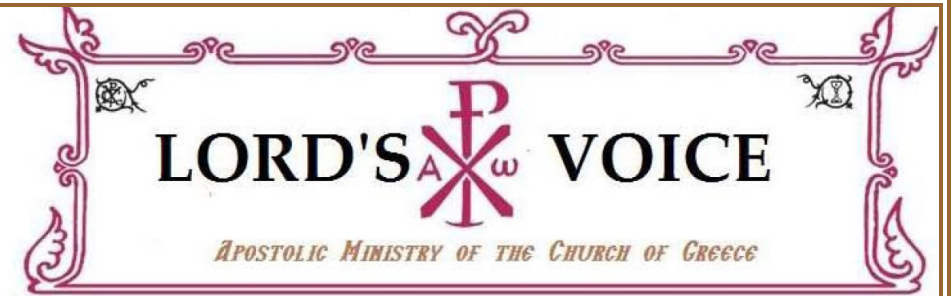
**GOSPEL READING** : *Mark 2:1-12*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 27 2022 SUNDAY OF HOLY CROSS**

*Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica , Paul, Bishop of Corinth.*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6*

**GOSPEL READING** : *Mark 8:34-38; 9:1*



**70<sup>TH</sup> YEAR MARCH 20 2022 PAMPHLET # 12 (3590)**

## THE GIFT OF LIFE

There are many and absolutely human moments when we learned from our parents and our grandparents to say "so long as we have our health everything can be done", asking God to bless the expression of our lips but also of our hearts. Certainly, it is a philosophized and true ascertainment and wish simultaneously. A wish which for man, and furthermore, the believer, means the recognition of our good God as the source of life, as Lord and leader of life, as the granter of this precious good, to which He calls man as a cocreator according to His absolute wisdom.

### The work of in the likeness

The few or more decades of our life, is the time when God provides for our salvation for man to work the in the likeness, to struggle with His grace to resemble Him, to also become a god by grace. The Church, knowing that this gift of life cannot and must not be an aim, in and of itself, always prays and teaches concerning "life in Christ". Participation in the Divine Eucharist, the viewing of Christ himself in the person of each indigent brother, participation in divine

## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (MARK 2:1-12)

At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins'-he said to the paralytic-"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

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worship, prayer, common and private, studying the Law of God, of the Holy Scripture and the teaching of the Fathers of the Church, christify man, they help him remember his divine descent and heavenly homeland, they give meaning spiritually to all the time of his life.

## Squandering or increasing life?

All the scientific discoveries, the progress of society, the cultivation of peace in all the corners of the planet, the safeguarding of man's rights from end to end of the universe, the struggle against violence and discriminations, the recognition and preservation of creation as an irreplaceable gift of God, are woven together in the ages, with the effort of life of many people throughout human history. The life of the one who builds in an unbreakable association of love with life and for the life of the other, an edifice of incalculable value of worldwide civilization and humaneness. Thus, the world enriches and is enriched, thus life obtains essence beyond the present, the past and the future. On the contrary, an egocentric life destroys whatever good the others hand down to it, it gives birth to wickedness, crimes, wars, violence, ruination, and destruction. Such a problematic life and unfortunately separated from Christ, voluntarily sinks into darkness and in a rage refuses to receive "light from light" of the Resurrection of Christ.

Imbued by this spirit, our holy Church grants Saint Gregory Palamas today, as a model of true life. A great hierarch, who even though he is numbered in the choir of the recent saints, is simultaneously equal in value to the ancient great Fathers and ecumenical Teachers of the Church. His life, his teaching, his writings, his breathe and thought together comprise an experiential essay concerning "life in Christ". "Lord, illumine my darkness" was his permanent prayer, but also a brief sacred heritage for all struggler Christians.