

Arimathea excels". With the help of Nicodemus, he will render the due honors to the theandric body of Jesus. He will not even hesitate, furthermore, to grant, as an honorable host, the burial monument he intended for himself, on the slopes of the hill of the Crucifixion.

The women, on the other hand, are watching from afar. Even before dawn, they will begin their own journey. They know, of course, from ahead, that they are going to encounter seemingly insurmountable obstacles, but despite all these things, they decide to mobilize, "as if there were no other road on the whole earth, for Spring to pass through, except only this one... ». How, the grace of God transforms the most cowardly and weak creatures, as women were predominantly considered at that time, into zealous preachers of the Resurrection? Whoever delves especially into the life of Magdalene, will easily ascertain this truth. So, if we want, my brethren, to draw a teaching from today's passage, let it be this: that "that freedom demands virtue and courage".

Archim. A. A.

**SUNDAY MAY 8 2022 SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN,** *Synaxis of the Holy powder(or manna) which emitted from the tomb of Saint John the Theologian, Arsenios the Great.*

**tone of the week** : Second Tone

**EOTHINON** : Fourth Eothinon

**EPISTLE READING** : St. John's First Universal Letter 1:1-7

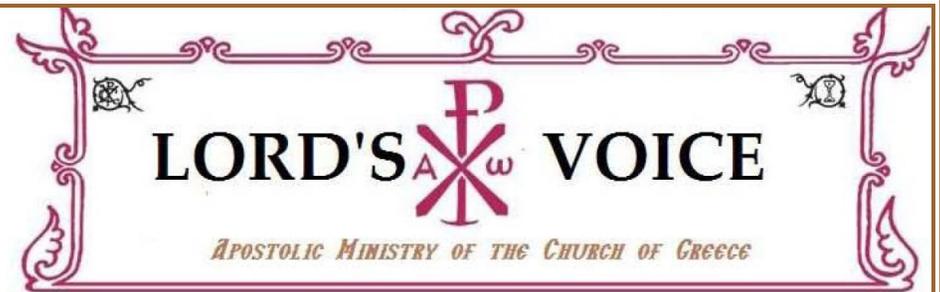
**GOSPEL READING** : Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8

**SUNDAY MAY 15 2022 SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC**

*Pachomius the Great, Achilius the Wonderworker Archbishop of Larissa, Placing of the Honorable Head of the Apostle Titus, Barbaros the Myrrhbearer of Kerkyra, Andrew the Hermit & Wonderworker*

**EPISTLE READING** : Acts of the Apostles 9:32-42

**GOSPEL READING** : John 5: 1- 15



70<sup>TH</sup> YEAR MAY 8 2022 PAMPHLET # 19 (3597)

## THE EXPERIENCE OF THE RESURRECTION

The day of Sunday in the liturgical time of our Church is not a simple break from the tiresome work of the week, an escape from the constant stress of our daily lives. "The one after the Sabbath", as Sunday is called in the Holy Scripture, functions as a weekly remembrance of the Resurrection of our Lord. While this is even more evident in the current period. After the bright shining Resurrection, which is the par excellence day of our Lord, as the "feast of feasts and celebration of celebrations", the Sunday of Antipascha comes, with which the cycle of its weekly celebration is inaugurated.

We thus arrive at this Sunday, which is dedicated to the respected counsel member Joseph of Arimathea, to the nighttime disciple Nikodemos and to the holy myrrh bearing women. Some of them are named in the Gospel passage of the Divine Liturgy, but also in morning Gospel: Mary Magdalene, Mary of Joses, Mary of James, Salome and Ioanna. By a good coincidence, in fact, our Church today also celebrates the memory of the Evangelist John the Theologian.

### An overlooked virtue

«Having dared». In this word, the special virtue of the Saints is summarized who, according to the plan of the divine

## **THE SUNDAY GOSPEL** *MARK 15:43-47; 16:1-8*

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was laid.

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

economy, served the burial of the godly body of the Lord, but who were also granted to proclaim His exceedingly glorious Resurrection to the world. Let us transfer ourselves noetically, based on the gospel at the dreadful Golgotha, and let us consider the fearsome events that happened there. We'll see our Lord suffering on the Cross, abandoned by everyone. The zealot Peter has already denied Him three times, the courageous Thomas has disappeared, the Apostles who with their eyes saw so many signs and were granted, with the grace of Jesus, to themselves do another so many, have hidden completely startled. "And everything was silent, because dread overshadowed them".

But if we observe more carefully, we will discern His Virgin Mother, her sister Mary of Klopas, the beloved disciple John, and even the prudent Mary Magdalene supporting the crucified Jesus. These courageous people were not "daunted by the Pilates". The rulers of the darkness of this world were not able to frighten them. But the absolutely human sense of impasse, overwhelms them as well, when Jesus leaves His last breath on the Cross, exclaiming the shocking "it is finished". Indeed, everything seems to have finally finished at that terrible time.

### **The surpassing**

But no matter how disappointed they may be, no matter how much they are tending towards desperation, some people, at that crucial moment, will put their sense of duty toward the suffering and dying Jesus above the prudence, which is often nothing more than a disguised fear. This surpassing, furthermore, elevates them there where "they are due more honor". Just like the mythical Antigone, Joseph will overlook the terrorism of the small-minded people, and will courageously and boldly address the unjust judge who convicted the only just-judge to a death by crucifixion. "The daring of the disciples ceases, while Joseph of