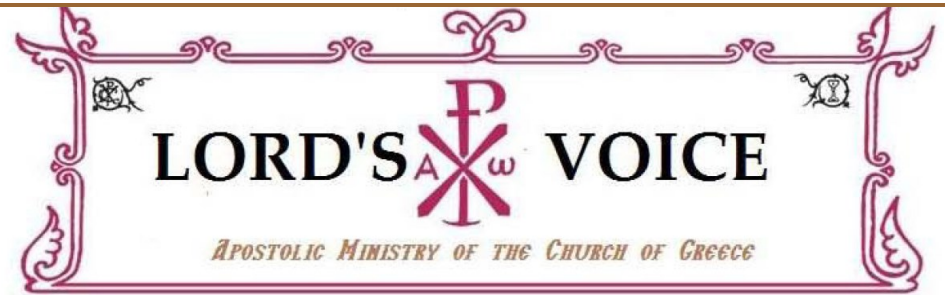


She reminds us that life in her, is a constant joy, a constant communion of love, which is achieved by our participation in the Body and Blood of the Lord and gives the possibility to those "completed in faith" to obtain a place at the festive table of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

Archim. A. A.



70TH YEAR September 11 2022 PAMPHLET # 37 (3615)

THE SERMON OF THE CROSS

Today is the second Sunday of the month of September, and our holy Church is marching towards the great feast of the Elevation of the Precious and life-giving Cross of our Lord. In today's gospel passage, Christ is conversing with Nicodemus, who was from the class of the Pharisees. Christ explains to him that only he who came down from heaven can make known the word and the will of God. The Son of God, being in the bosom of the Father, is the one who alone has the ability to speak to people about the heavenly mysteries, which no one in the world knows "except he who came down from heaven".

We know from our experience that Christ offers himself in every way for the purpose of our spiritual cultivation and, of course, our salvation. At this point, He talks about the crucifictional sacrifice that is to follow, in order to eliminate the sins of people and, of course, to fulfill the "preeternal" plan of God. There are many

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2022 *Sunday before Holy Cross, Theodora of Alexandria, Euphrosynos the Cook, Demetrios & Evanthia the Martyrs & their son Demetrianos, Sergius & Herman of Valaam, Finland, Afterfeast of the Nativity of Theotokos, Deinol the first Bishop of Bangor.*

EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18*

GOSPEL READING: *John 3:13-17*

TONE OF THE WEEK : *Fourth Tone*

EOTHINON : *Second Eothinon*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 *Sunday after Holy Cross, Eumenius the Wonderworker Bishop of Gortynia, Ariadne the Martyr, Afterfeast of the Holy Cross.*

EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20*

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

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL READING: JOHN 3:13-17

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

occasions when Christ announces what is about to happen, that is related to the Crucifixion and His resurrection. In order to explain to Nicodemus and the rest of the Jews, what is about to happen, He uses a passage from the Old Testament. It refers to Moses, who hung a bronze serpent on a very high point in the desert, with the intention of safeguarding the people of Israel from the poisonous snakes. And so, he also is going to hang on the Cross for the salvation of the human race. With His Crucifixion, Christ showed His infinite love for His creature and assumed "the likeness" of sin, but not having Himself even a trace of it.

The desire of His Kingdom

In the continuation of the passage, the Evangelist gives us to understand that he who will believe in the

only begotten Son of God, will gain Heaven and eternal life. He who believes in Christ, he who keeps what Christ said, he who walks the steps where Christ walked, unites with Him and lives daily the great mystery of love and communion with God. God wants from us to rid ourselves of evil and sin, to put on the "new man" and return to our prefallen state, enjoying the good things of Paradise. He seeks from us our repentance, our personal struggle that will strengthen our faith, for which all humans are destined, so that, as the Apostle of the Gentiles Paul says, "we are justified by faith". The Evangelist reminds us that we are all children of God and all - regardless of ethnicity, class or gender - can be saved, so long as we confess Jesus Christ. In the new condition of the New Testament, we no longer need to follow specific commandments, but we have been freed ourselves from every formality, and our faith is now alive and capable of redeeming us from the harms that came from the preancestral sin.

The union with God

The Church today, a few days after the Feast of the Mother of God, of the Birth of the Most Holy Theotokos, marching towards the feast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross of our Lord, wants to teach us precisely that through the Cross, this supreme sacrifice, we were able to escape from sin and to unite with God.