

of our life from all these fabrications that alter it, trivialize it and make it false and fake.

The gain, for the person of God, is only the christification, he reorientation, and redefinition of his life in the perspective of His Kingdom. The gain, of course, according to the way we all, more or less, think, has to do with wealth, money and all kinds of material goods. We have already acquired from history, and from modern experience, the bitter knowledge that these are fluid and not at all a given, when the presence of God does not bless them in our lives. So, let's hasten to reassess our priorities.

Archim. A. A.

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*

TONE OF THE WEEK : *Plagal First Tone*

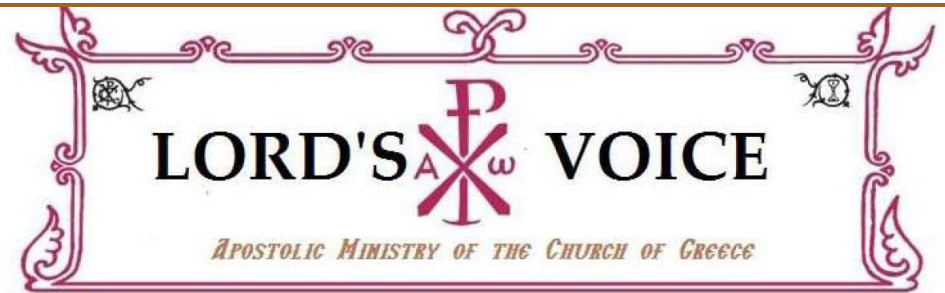
EOTHINON : *Third Eothinon*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 **1ST SUNDAY OF LUKE** ,

Euphrosyne of Alexandria , Paphnoutios the Martyr & his 546 Companions in Egypt, Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos of Evangelistria, Mochos. Our Righteous Father Sergius of Radonezh, Finbar the Confessor, First Bishop of Cork.

EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15*

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 5:1-11*



70TH YEAR September 18 2022 PAMPHLET # 38 (3616)

THE SPIRITUAL SHADOW OF THE CROSS

The all-refreshing spiritual shadow of the precious and life-giving Cross covers today's post festal Sunday of the Elevation. We hear that passage read in the holy churches, during the Divine Liturgy, from the holy Gospel of the holy glorious apostle and evangelist Mark, which is eminently appropriate to the meaning, to the message and to the theology of the Precious Cross, which always in Orthodoxy is venerated as a preparation of the Resurrection. Let us briefly study the sacred text, and thus be strengthened in our struggle, now at the beginning of the new ecclesiastical year.

God's way

Christ invites the entire world without exception and without personal preference, "the crowd with his disciples", dividing time and history. No one is missing from Gods' call for the mercy and salvation that flow from His Cross. We are

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL READING: MARK 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

We are all, clergy, monks and laity, invited to participate in the joy of His Kingdom. However, no one is obligated to respond, no one is pressured to take part involuntarily in this festival. The host Christ makes it clear: "Whoever wants to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me"; whoever wants to follow the way that I am walking, let him deny his evil self, let him carry his cross with patience and fortitude, and let him follow me.

Christ, as the leader of life and death, as true and almighty God, opens, out of absolute love for His creature, the path of sacrifice. His Cross is an eternal symbol and witness of this offering to all the nations. Today's proposed journey with Him is the path that the

person of God follows. No pain, no illness can cost the exit from this journey, the loss of this road. For the person of God, nothing is more essential, worthier or more precious than this association, the association of love that Christ has with each one of us. The taking up of our cross, which Christ indicates, enables us ourselves to patiently test the quality of this relationship, like gold in the crucible, we being benefitted spiritually with self-censuring and a humble attitude, without being tested by the knower of hearts and omniscient God.

Eternal gain

Many times, we think - whether we admit it or not - that God is almost obliged to repay our good conduct, to generously offer us health, wealth, material goods, worldly positions, ecclesiastical offices, experienced with worldly glamor and lust for power. This viewpoint is the great burden from which we urgently need to be delivered; to cast off as a weight the futile toiling of this life, and to initiate a life in accordance with the will of Christ. This, after all, is what the holy author means by conveying the words of our Lord: For whoever wants to save his life, will lose it. But whoever loses his life because of me and because of the Gospel, will save it. In the original text, the word "soul" is used, which is correctly translated everywhere in this passage as life. So today, Christ proposes the voluntary loss and the release