

In the sacred texts of the Gospels, many times, the Lord promises the goods of His Kingdom. But to those who love sacrificially, like Him, He reserves the highest gift that man can receive, his adoption by the heavenly Father, his likeness to God by grace; the mystical meeting and union with Him, which is the destination and purpose of our spiritual struggle, so that we become sons of the Most High God.

Archim. A. A

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022 2ND SUNDAY OF LUKE , *The Holy Hieromartyr Cyprian and the Virgin Martyr Justina ,Theophilus the Confessor*

EPISTLE READING: St. Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10

GOSPEL READING: Luke 6:31-36

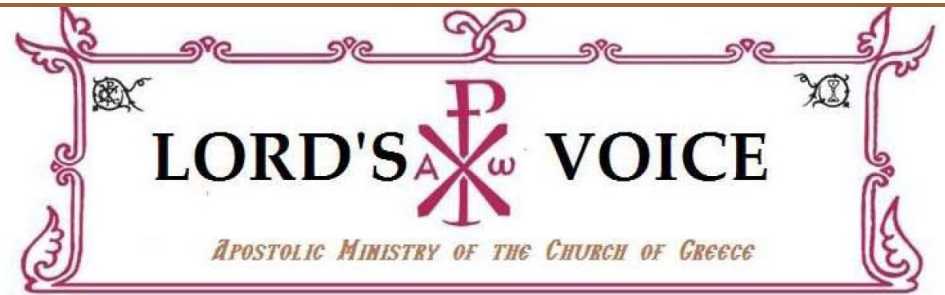
tone of the week : *Grave Tone*

EOTHINON : *Fifth Eothinon*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022 3RD SUNDAY OF LUKE , *James the Apostle, son of Alphaeus, Andronicus & his wife Athanasia of Egypt , Poplia the Confessor of Antioch , The Righteous Patriarch Abraham and his nephew Lot.*

EPISTLE READING: St. Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18

GOSPEL READING: Luke 7:11-16



70TH YEAR October 2 2022 PAMPHLET # 40 (3618)

THE WILL OF GOD

The Lord, with His Sermon on the Mount, a small excerpt of which is today's Gospel passage, reveals to His disciples, and through the Gospel to all of us, the heavenly Father's will. Is the will of God simply a law or a code of ethics that regulates relations with our fellow human beings, and by extension Him? Of course not. God's will is something much higher; it is life and salvation that leads to the spiritual perfection and the deification of man.

In the Lord's Sermon on the Mount, there is such a gradation, which in a reductive way, leads us from the lowest to the highest, from the human to the divine. Thus, when the Lord says the phrase "As you want men to do to you, do you also likewise to them", He concludes with the incomprehensible "Love your enemies", to lead us to the highest virtue of love. He reveals to us the Father's will, and teaches us how God wants man to live. We could say that it is the litmus test, by which our faith

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL READING : LUKE 6:31 - 36

The Lord said, "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

in Him, and our obedience to His divine will, will be tested.

The power of love

Love, therefore, is the core of the divine will. And whoever has love, resembles God himself, because, as the Evangelist of love, Saint John the Theologian, characteristically stresses "God is love." The person who loves, not only sees his brother, or rather his own self in the face of the other, but he also has the power to forgive the other person; that is, he gives him the opportunity to "fit" into his heart, into his life. And then his love is not simply an emotion or a Christian virtue; it becomes a divine love, garbed with which, the person faces the great benefactor God, as good, he converses with the only Good One, being

philanthropic, he prays to the absolutely philanthropic God, according to Saint Gregory of Nyssa.

Therefore, forgiving our brother is the presupposition which will lead us to "love your enemies". Maybe in our eyes, it seems really difficult, and often painful, it is however, the only safe road, which will lead us to our spiritual perfection, to the purity of our heart, so that our mystical meeting with God comes about, our union with Him. Because, as a culmination and as a consequence of love for our enemies, our adoption by the heavenly Father comes, as the Lord characteristically emphasizes: "and you shall be sons of the Most High".

The sight of the brother

It is not simply a reward from God - because the reward is characteristic of wage earners, of slaves - but of the maximum gift that we can receive from God, to become His children by grace, for us to resemble Him. Really, when we love our brother, without conditions, unconditionally, when we can become compassionate towards our neighbor and love him as ourselves, then we become as God is, who benefits people, even when He gets their ingratitude, and He forgives on the wood of His crucifactory sacrifice, even those who crucified Him.