

It is now time to repent, to change course and to regain the right orientation, having as our only compass, our faith in Christ the Savior and the Gospel as a safe map. Only with His help can we recover, just as the woman of today's Gospel passage was straightened up, to raise our eyes to heaven and, as the great Despotism feast of Christmas is already approaching, let us rise up from Earthly things, responding to the visitation of the Redeemer from on high, according to relative call of Saint Gregory the Theologian: "Christ (is) on the earth; be ye elevated.' May it happen!

Archim. A. A

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022 10TH Sunday of Luke. Barbara the Great Martyr, *John the Righteous of Damascus, New Hieromartyr Seraphim, Bishop of the Phanar in Greece, Juliana the martyr of Heliopolis, Alexander Hotovitzky New Hieromartyr of Russia Missionary to America*

EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5*

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 13:10 - 17*

TONE OF THE WEEK : *Grave Tone*

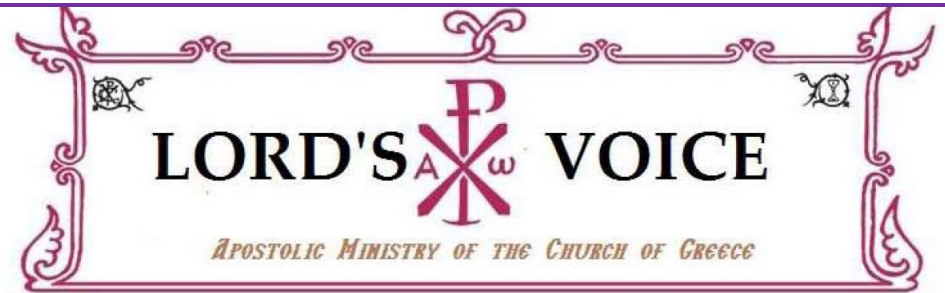
EOTHINON : *Second Eothinon*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022 11TH SUNDAY OF LUKE.

Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople , Luke the New Stylite of Chalcedon , Martyrs Acepisus and Aeithalas. *Holy Martyrs Miracus and Barsabas , Leontios the Righteous of Monemvasia , The Glorious King Nikephoros Phokas.*

EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11*

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 14:16 - 24*



70TH YEAR DECEMBER 4 2022 PAMPHLET # 49 (36267)

A WONDERFUL CURE

Today is the first Sunday of December and our holy Church presents the Gospel narration of yet another miracle of our Lord, which is none other than the cure of a bent over woman. This woman suffered for eighteen whole years from a serious illness, the curvature of her body, which prevented her from raising her head. Thus, when Jesus saw her in a synagogue, He immediately wanted to free her from the terrible problem that troubled her. With one and only word, the Creator, placing at the same time His hands on the woman, immediately restored her shattered health. Her body returned to its normal posture, completely freed from the bending over, while she herself, perceiving that she was now completely healthy, glorified God for His great favor.

The man at the center

This cure is a practical reward for this woman by our Lord, for the piety that characterized her and, of course, for the reverent observance of God's commandments. The Jewish crowd, after the miracle, rejoiced with the now

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL READING : LUKE 13:10-17,

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

healed woman, and marveled at the works that the Lord did continuously, healing people from various physical, mental and spiritual diseases. The miracle, however, was done on Saturday, a holiday of complete dedication spiritual to God for the Jews, according to the legal mandate: "Six days you labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God" (Exodus 20:9-10). This event was the occasion for which the head of the Synagogue became indignant and sternly addressed those present, saying that they must come to be healed during the remaining six days of

the week and not that of the Sabbath. Responding, Jesus, perceiving the malice he was hiding, called him a hypocrite. He furthermore, reminded him that most members of the Synagogue do the same thing on Saturday, that they do on the other days of the week, they loosen their ox from the stable and go to water it, albeit normally such a thing is prohibited by the Law.

Formalism as a mental disability

The head of the synagogue could not see and recognize the great and wonderful event that had taken place, but neither could he rejoice with the recovery of the bent over woman, as he had been completely overcome by malice and envy. He remained attached exclusively to the ritual, considering healing as a common human work, and consequently, as a violation of the Sabbath holiday. However, the woman, who probably walked with difficulty and a lot of effort, to attend the Synagogue, was rewarded in the best way by God, who gave her a solution to the problem that had plagued her for eighteen years.

This woman must be an example of faith and life for us also today, in an era which is characterized by wickedness and malice, but mainly by people's attachment to the vain and corrupt things of this world, which pass away like a "dream". People are constantly looking down and see nothing but the "dust of the earth", money, and all kinds of material goods. The purpose of our existence, our destination, has become blurred and difficult to discern.