

The many named and many formed and very diverse group of people of the Old Testament, of all generations of the human forebears of Christ, chant together with us today the "Christ is born, glorify ye". Together with them, all of us are chanting a glorifying and thanksgiving hymn about Christ's Birth. We are whatever they also were, humans with a tendency towards sin. We want to declare to Christ that we desire to depend our life on Him, to become one with Him. It is not so important if we will succeed in the interpretation of the divine Scriptures. Let us not forget, furthermore, that Pharisees and Scribes who knew the Mosaic Law better than everyone, in the end did, not accept, and they crucified Christ. On the contrary, the simple people who are represented today in the gospel invitation, accepted the message of the Prophets, were benefited by it, and thus worshipped the godhead of Christ.

Let us also become acceptors of today's calling, let us support each one with his strength, the weakness of the other, and let us thus prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ. Let nothing superficial, nothing trivial, nothing barren emotional burden this year's celebration and let it not darken the good disposition of our heart. Christmas means reconciliation with our brother, confession, Divine Communion. So, "come let us see" where Christ was born"!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022 SUNDAY BEFORE

NATIVITY *Sebastian the Martyr & his Companions, Our Righteous Father Michael Syngellon the Confessor.*

EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40*

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 1:1-25*

tone of the week : *First Tone*

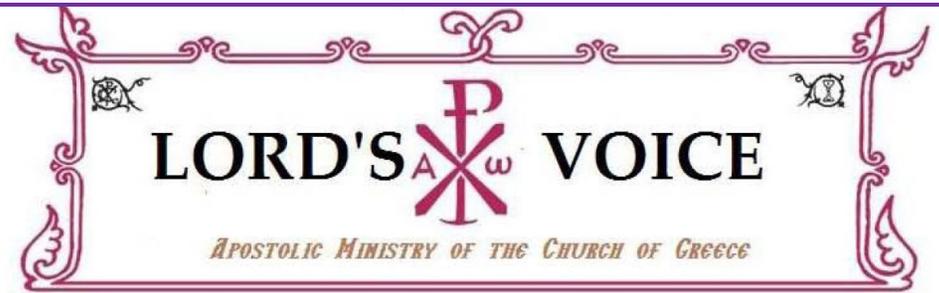
EOTHINON : *Fifth Eothinon*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2022 THE NATIVITY OF OUR

LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, *The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Gaspar, & Balthasar, The Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks and came to see the Lord*

EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:4-7*

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 2:1-12*



70TH YEAR DECEMBER 18 2022 PAMPHLET # 51 (36269)

A PAN-HUMAN EXPECTATION

"The book of the genealogy^[a] of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham". Sunday today before Christmas, and the wisdom of the holy Fathers of our Church appointed that during the Divine Liturgy, this specific Gospel passage be read, at the beginning, that is, of the Gospel of the holy glorious apostle and evangelist Matthew.

The entire universe is represented today ancestrally in this festive gathering, the multitudinous choir that receives the divine Birth of Christ with expectation. Men and women, rich and poor, educated and illiterate, sinners of every type, of rank, tribe, ethnicity and language tradition, but also next to them, people also with genuine faith in God, await the coming of the Savior, who is coming as an "earthquake of the earth", according to the holy patristic saying, in order to bring about an incision in human history and to separate it into before Him and after Him. The entire Old Testament comprises the history of the Israelite people, but also simultaneously, it imprints "in shadow and letter" the preparation of all of humanity to receive the Deliverer and Savior who is He Himself.

The capability of salvation

Many are those circumstances in which we get mixed up, whether voluntarily or not, into a foul and wicked habit of considering, with our expressions and behavior, with our choices mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 1:1-25*

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame

, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

and seekings, with our speech and silence, that God did not become man in order to reform the world and to grant the opportunity of reconciliation and meeting with Him, but that He came essentially in order to create His own "elite" in which, furthermore, by right, "our own right" all of us "good Christians" belong.

Christ, however, is coming- unrelated to if for many, His coming will remain uncelebrated this year also- as a lamb for slaughter, in order to save man who is suffering from sin. Let us also align ourselves with today's gospel company, and let us notice that God who does not need anything, the King of heaven and of earth, "who is completely uncontainable", is contained in the womb of His All-holy mother and moves, groundbreakingly "by the lightning flash of the godhead" on the one hand, towards the past, down to our forefathers, Adam and Eve, and, on other hand, towards the future, up to the Kingdom, granting to all of us personally, the capability of the salvation that becomes a reality, not for the sake of our own worthiness, but out of the love of His paternal heart. The one of the Holy Trinity, with the will of God the Father, "of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary", puts on human flesh, and becomes voluntarily poor, in order for us to be enriched with His own poverty.

The lifting of the misunderstanding