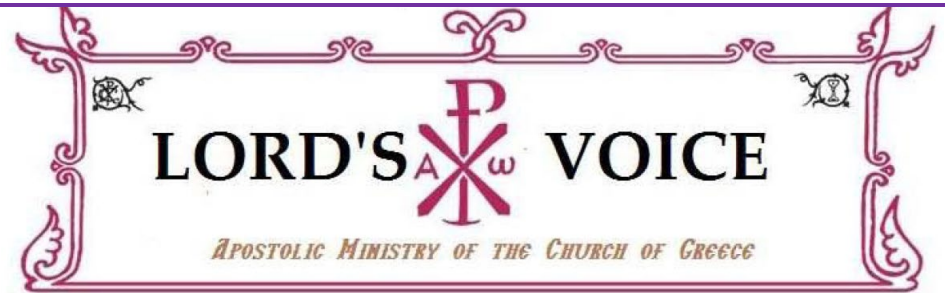


WITH OUR WHOLE SOUL WE WISH FOR 2023 THE FULLNESS OF JOY AND PEACE, THE ABUNDANCE OF HOPE, THE UNQUENCHABLE POWER TO RESIST AND CREATE IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE WORD AND ACT OF LOVE FOR FELLOW MAN AND CREATION!



71ST YEAR JANUARY 1 2023 PAMPHLET # 1 (3631)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 01, 2023, CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, *Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia, Emmelia, Mother of Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, Makrina, and Peter of Sebaste , Gregory, Bishop of Nanzianzos, Father of Gregory the Theologian , Peter the New Martyr of the Peloponnesos, Theodotos the Martyr, Righteous Theodosios of Triglia , Telemachos the Martyr ,Fulgentius, Bishop of Ruspe*

EPISTLE READING: St. Paul's Letter to Colossians 2:8-12

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

TONE OF THE WEEK : *Fourth Tone*

EOTHINON : *Seventh Eothinon*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 08, 2023, SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY , *George of Hozeva , Domnica the Righteous of Constantinople , Atticus and Cyrus, Holy Patriarchs of Constantinople, Emilianos the Confessor, Bishop of Cyzikos, Gregory of the Kiev Caves , Pega the Virgin, Hermitess of Peakirk*

EPISTLE READING: St. Paul's Letter to Ephesians 4:7-13

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 4:12-17

AT THE DAWN OF THE NEW YEAR

The welcoming of the new year gives every believer the occasion to express in words and deeds his gratitude to God, who is the giver of life, He who has in His own power years and times. The new year is given to us as a new opportunity to come to know with unending knowledge and living love, the God of love, the incarnate Word, in the Holy Spirit.

The possibility of knowing God and communing with Him is the par excellence gift of God, who works "all things in all" (1 Cor. 12:7). That is why the Church always proclaims "It is time to worship the Lord" (Psalms 118,126). God, that is, in every season and time, works out man's salvation.

As for our own response, in the new year, like every year, every day and moment of our lives, is the right time for us to do something for the Lord who ceaselessly benefits us. To render back love for His love, humility for His humility, forgiveness and revengelessness for His revengelessness. To render back for His infinite, visible and invisible benefactions, the joy-producing tears of repentance, our

EPISTLE READING: ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO COLOSSIANS
2:8-12

BRETHREN, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fulness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

longing to pray, our striving to participate in the Divine Liturgy, in the Mystical Supper of Christ's sacrificial love.

The Church as a new way of life

Therefore, because God surrounds us with the life-giving power of His love, we must consider our life and course in the world with optimism, hope and joy.

The Christian faith is called "ev-angelio", glad tidings of God for man. The inner power of this announcement is Jesus Christ. Man, looking forward with faith in Him, is transfigured "in the image of his creator" (Col. 3:11); he emerges from the chaos of loss that life entails without Christ, and thus his existence is given meaning in Christ. Then existence becomes coexistence, relationship, communion with God and, by extension, with man, fellow man; and life is

flooded with the light of Christ who dissolves every inner darkness.

Dangers of altering the gospel message

The Apostle Paul, writing about 60-62 AD. to the Christians of Colossae (a city located in western Asia Minor), points out the danger their Church was facing, from some heretical teaching that had begun to spread. Therefore, as we heard in our Epistle reading, he tells them: "be careful that someone not deceive you with deceptive and hollow reasonings of human wisdom based on human traditions and on a false belief in the elements of the world and not on the teaching of Christ" (Col. 2:8).

The aforesaid heretical teaching was called "philosophy", as a supposedly superior knowledge and possession of teachings about God, the world, man etc. It contained regulations that conflicted with the Gospel of Christ, such as putting down the body and material goods, the "religion of angels", i.e. the worship of spirits and powers, "elements of the world", which favorably or adversely influenced, as they believed, the universe and people. At the same time, it also allowed faith in Christ, with the ultimate goal, of course, to change the gospel message and life in Christ.

Therefore, the Apostle emphasizes the supremacy and mastery of Christ above all creation. Everything owes its existence to Christ. He is the ultimate goal of everything. In Christ, Paul says, all the godhead physically dwells and in Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. It is up to us to keep the Truth of Christ intact and to live according to it, according to the tradition of the Church and of our Saints. We consider this to be the best pursuit for the New Year and for all the years of our lives.