

driving away of peace, justice, love... All these darken man's mind, and he prefers idol worship, first of all, that of egotism and arrogance, to the worship of the living God.

Saint Ignatius the God-bearer in his Epistle to the Ephesians says that: "Nothing escapes the Lord's attention, but even our secret thoughts are close to Him. So let's do everything, as if He is dwelling in us, so that we may be His temples and He may be God in us – for us to become His temples and that He may be our God in the temple of our soul". Amen!

Archim. N.K

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023 SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE, *Removal of the Relics of Ignatius the God-bearer, Ignatius and Nicandrus of Sinai, Laurence the Recluse of the Kiev Caves, Gildas the Wise.*

EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1*

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 15:21-28*

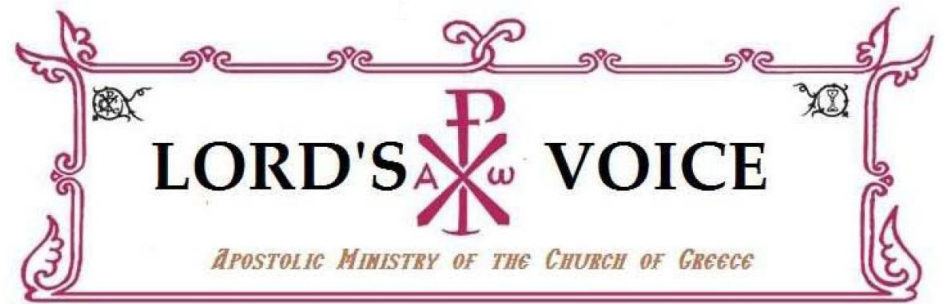
TONE OF THE WEEK : *Plagal Fourth Tone*

EOTHINON : *Eleventh Eothinon*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 05, 2023 SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE: TRIODION BEGINS TODAY , *Agatha the Martyr Polyeuktos, Patriarch Of Constantinople, Antonios the New Martyr of Athens, heodosios, Archbishop of Chernigov, Afterfeast of the Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple, Theodosios of Antioch.*

EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15*

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 18:10-14*



71ST YEAR JANUARY 29 2023 PAMPHLET # 5 (3635)

YOU ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD"

With today's Epistle reading, the Apostle Paul helps man to contemplate the innermost depth of his being, and there to consider his divine origin and kinship. He writes to the Corinthians that every believer is a temple of God, as a member of the Body of Christ.

Therefore, with a spirit of repentance, vigilance and love, the faithful must strive for the edification of the temple of God. In other words, to have the conscience that the temple of God is the spiritual space where God meets man, that is, the heart of man; and that they must devote every care and diligence for the purification, sanctification and illumination of their hearts.

Paul's theological position that man is the temple of God, is not consistent with the notion that this is made possible in a mechanical way. A basic condition for the promotion of the believer into a temple of God, is the activation and utilization of the gifts he received with the sacraments of Baptism and Chrism. And this means that his existence must be

*EPISTLE READING ST. PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE
CORINTHIANS 6:16-18; 7:1*

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

characterized by signs of devotion to God; by the feeling that the believer himself is a mystical altar, in which he offers himself back as "a living, holy sacrifice, acceptable to God" (Rom. 12,1). To be characterized by the conviction that through his conscious participation in the Eucharist, he becomes one body and one blood with Christ; because through prayer, and in general, the spiritual struggle, he opens the door of his soul to the Lord, who stands there and politely waits for man's response (Revelation 3:20).

"I shall dwell among them and walk among them"

Then Paul turns to the Old Testament, where God promises His presence in the world and history: "I will dwell among them and I will walk with them. I will be

their God and they will be my people". Here, the prophets Moses and Ezekiel speak about the indwelling of God in the heart of man, a fact which is wonderfully lived by the Church with the incarnation of Christ, His sacrifice, and Resurrection.

God always remains faithful to His promises. However, what is man's response? Does he desire to become the dwelling place of true God, to honor the kinship, the intimacy offered to him by the gift of divine adoption?

Internal division of believers

In the immediately following verse, Paul uses the following passage from the prophet Isaiah (52,11): "Go out from among them and separate yourselves and do not approach sin and I will receive you close to me". The Apostle distinguishes that the Christians of Corinth were in danger of a contradictory dichotomy. Their love and faith in the Lord was not complete. And this was evident from the fact that they accepted the influence of idolatrous habits and sinful situations. Here the problem of the Christian's attitude towards forms of idolatry, ancient and modern, and, of course, sin, is pointed out. For example, doesn't man's enslavement to technological goods of contemporary culture risk idol-worshipping tendencies? Afterwards, unbridled carnality with its deadly consequences, the exploitation of fellow human beings, the escalation of violence and crime, wars, the