

The events of Christ's life, the immaculate Passion, the Cross, and the Resurrection help us to experience that "the Lord is near", He is close to us, within us with His crucified Love, which we ought to offer to our fellow human beings. That's why accepting in love, Him who first loved us, let us glorify Him by shouting: "Hosanna, blessed is he who is coming in the name of the Lord". Amen!

Archim. N.K

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023 PALM SUNDAY *The Holy Martyr Euppsychius of Caesarea Raphael, Nicholas, Irene, & Olympias of Mytilene Vadim the Righteous of Persia*

EPISTLE READING: St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9

GOSPEL READING : John 12: 1-18

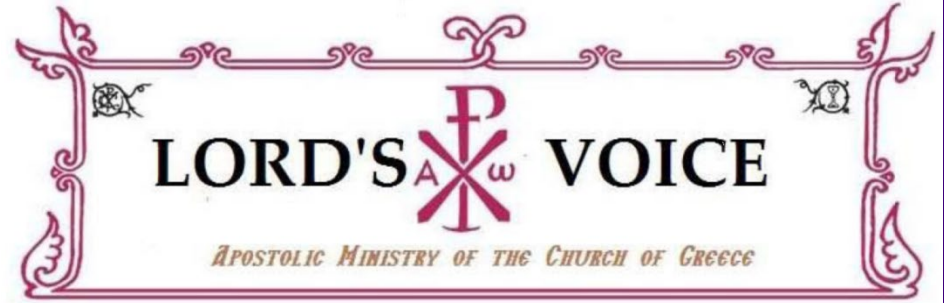
TONE OF THE WEEK :

EOTHINON :

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023 GREAT & HOLY PASCHA *Agape Chionia and Irene the Holy Martyrs. Righteous Amphilochios of Patmos, Leonidas and Charissa, Nike, Galene, Kallida, Nounenchia, Vasilissa, and Theodora the Martyrs.*

EPISTLE READING: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8

GOSPEL READING : John 1: 1-17



71ST YEAR APRIL 9 2023

PAMPHLET # 15 (36445)

THE FULLNESS OF JOY AND PEACE

Today's Epistle passage helps us to understand that from the crucifactory Sacrifice and the Resurrection of the Lord, joy, peace, and thanksgiving to God spring forth. The Apostle Paul refers to joy in the Lord as a fruit of the love of God, and in man's eucharistic ethos towards of God, which fills his existence with the peace of God "which surpasses every mind" (Phil. 4:7). The peace of God surpasses all thought, that is, it is inconceivable to the human mind. Because it doesn't only refer to the request for harmonious coexistence between the peoples, or to the peaceful framework of social survival of people; neither to something that is based on mechanical forms or worldly regimes.

The peace of which the Apostle is speaking, is the Lord Jesus himself, as the Holy Scripture repeatedly underlines. "While may the God of peace be with all of you" (Rom. 15:33), prays Paul in Romans, while in Ephesians he writes that "For (Christ) Himself is our peace" (Eph. 2:14).

EPISTLE READING: ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS 4:4 9,

BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you..

In fact, shortly before His voluntary Passion, the Lord tells His disciples: "Peace, I leave you, my peace I give you; not as the world gives, do I give you" (John 14:27). Therefore, in the person of Christ, who is perfect God and perfect man, man finds inner peace with God and himself and, therefore, makes peace with the whole world. "Be at peace within yourself and heaven and earth will be at peace with you," says Saint Isaac the Syrian. The word "peace" etymologically comes from the verb "heiro", which means I fit together, since peace connects, unites the many in one, while with its absence, even the one is divided into many. Christ's peace is not a moral but a spiritual state, that is, His presence in our lives. It is the only hope of deliverance from conventionality and the constant falsifications of world peace. Peace comes from hastening to conform to the way life of Christ, from the struggle to fight our passions which bring about division

and turmoil, from our effort to apply the commandments of God. "Much peace to those who love your law, O Lord" (Ps. 118:165).

The eschatological perspective

Of course, peace and joy are not won once and for all, but are constantly being achieved. As unending conditions, they exist only in the Kingdom. Like the Kingdom of God, so they will be manifested in their fullness, during the future age; and as the Kingdom of God begins from the present age, so they also begin from the present life. That is why the Apostle recommends that the faithful rejoice in the Lord always, even in trials and tribulations which they inevitably face in the present world, given that they are partakers of the life of Christ, in whose Body they have joined as members of the Church. Christ's victory over death and sin is the basis of the resurrectional joy and the eschatological expectation of Christians. In the same manner, peace and joy appear simultaneously as something given and as requested; as present and as expected.

The Lord is near - He is coming soon

The experience of the holy Apostles and all the Saints is a manifestation of the joy and peace in Christ, which filled their hearts. They lived in the presence of the Lord in the Holy Spirit, where we too are called to live with the compunctionate services of Holy Week.