

the humility and the love of Christ; and thus, they become God's accomplices in spreading the Gospel of peace, of righteousness and love, which consists of two phrases; Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

PASCHA OF THE LORD, PASCHA

Pascha of the Lord, Pascha, and again I will say Pascha, in honor of the Holy Trinity. This is the feast of feasts and the celebration of celebrations, which surpasses all the others so much, not only the human ones and those coming from below, but even the feasts of Christ himself, and those celebrated in His honor, as much as the sun surpasses the stars [...]

Today we are celebrating this Resurrection, no longer as something we hope for, but already as an event, which gathers the whole world to it. Therefore, let each one offer as fruit something different at this time, and let him bring a festive gift, either small or great, of what is spiritual and beloved to God, according to his abilities. Because, a gift worthy of the celebration, even the angels, the first intelligent and pure ones, and overseers and witnesses of the divine glory, could just barely be able to achieve, even if every kind of hymnology is possible for them. (Saint Gregory the Theologian)

Archim. N.K

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*

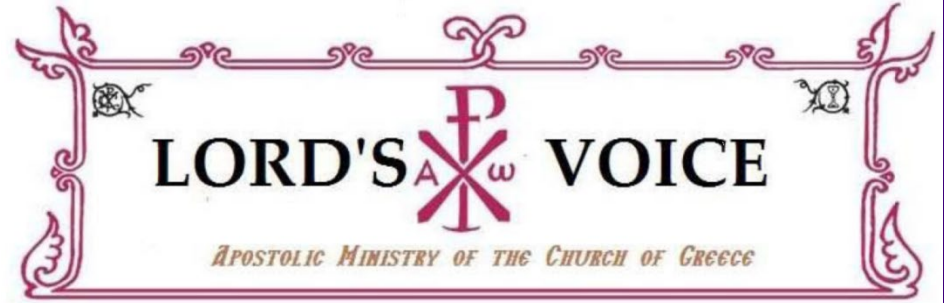
TONE OF THE WEEK :

EOTHINON :

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023 THOMAS SUNDAY *George the Great Martyr and Triumphant, Martyrs Emmanuel, Theodore, George, Michael and the other George of Samothrace*

EPISTLE READING: *Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11*

GOSPEL READING : *John 20: 19-31*



71ST YEAR APRIL 16 2023

PAMPHLET # 16 (36446)

RESURRECTION AND CREATION

Christian hope begins with the incarnation of the Word, the Son of God adopting human nature and culminates in His Resurrection. The Resurrection of Christ is an event, which, despite its historicity, remains a mystery that also constitutes the foundation stone of the mystery of the Church. The Resurrection is the unique event upon which all of creation is founded. "The building of the world is the construction of the Church", Saint Gregory of Nyssa points out. The Church, as the Body of the Crucified and Risen Christ, wants to include all of the world, those living, those reposed, and those who will be born, until the end of the ages, for their sanctification and deification; the realization of the purpose of their creation.

That is why on the night of the Resurrection we chant; "Now everything, heaven and the earth * and the nethermost regions, have all been filled with light. * Let the entire creation, therefore, celebrate the rising of Christ. * For it is established in Him." (DCS) The sacred hymnographer calls all creation to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ in which it has been fixed, it has been built, and because of which it exists, it has come from non-being into being, according to the preeternal plan of God.

EPISTLE READING: ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 1:1-8

In the first book, O Theophilos, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

The Book of the Acts of the Apostles

In the sacred Monasteries of our Church, before the Midnight service of the Resurrection, in the central Church, the entire Book of Acts is read. The same book is used as a reading also, in our liturgical gatherings from the night of Resurrection until Pentecost Sunday, that is, throughout the period of Pentecost. And this, because the Church, with the Book of Acts, which the Evangelist Luke wrote, wants to show that the spreading of the Christian Gospel is done by the Holy Spirit, whose activity is particularly emphasized. The light

of faith was passed on from the church of Jerusalem to the gentile world, it ran throughout the whole Empire, and eventually reached even up to Rome itself. And until the end, it will be preached to the whole earth, with the power of the Holy Spirit and the concern of the Church. That is why the Book of Acts could be characterized as the gospel of the Holy Spirit.

Witnesses and testimony

In our passage, the Evangelist Luke refers to presumptions of the Resurrection of the Lord. That is, to the appearances of the Resurrected One to His Disciples and Apostles; "for forty days he was appearing to them and speaking about the Kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3). We have the appearances to the Most Holy Theotokos, to Mary Magdalene and to the Myrrh bearers, to the Apostle Peter, to the two Disciples on the way to Emmaus, to the Disciples in the upper room, without and with Thomas, at the lake of Tiberias, etc.

These appearances of the Risen Lord have the communion of His love and the offering of His resurrected life to people. as their center. The life of Christ becomes life and churchization, the re-creation of man, and thus the world passes from the level of its mundane and sin-worn life to the level of God's life, in Christ Jesus, through the Holy Spirit. The believer who is reborn, with his participation in the life of the Risen One, and feeds on the Word of God and the communion of the Divine Eucharist, becomes a witness to the Resurrection of Christ; he adopts the event of the Resurrection and experiences the "new," the new life, the transformation in God. The main characteristics of this life are joy, rejoicing, gladness, peace, and love.

. In every age there will be witnesses of the Resurrection of the Lord. Witnesses who were granted, with the power of the Holy Spirit, to experience the presence of Christ in their lives and to commune with the light, the glory, the Cross, the Resurrection,