

my God, because you didn't let Paul stay away from You, but You made him Your Apostle for the benefit of all people? When You created the stars and the sun, Your Angels praised You with one voice; but they did not praise You with as much joy then, as they did when You recreated the new Paul for the benefit of the whole world, who became brighter than the light of the sun and made the earth shine more than the sky".

Let us pray that the love of the Apostle of the Nations, and the equal to the apostles, Constantine, for Christ, also inspire our own existence as well, to experience our faith and radiate its light.

Archim. N.K

SUNDAY, MAY 21 2023 SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN,

Constantine and Helen Equals to the Apostles, Pachomios the Righteous New Martyr.

EPISTLE READING : *Acts of the Apostles 26:1 12-20*

GOSPEL READING : *John 9:1-38*

TONE OF THE WEEK : *Mode Plagal First*

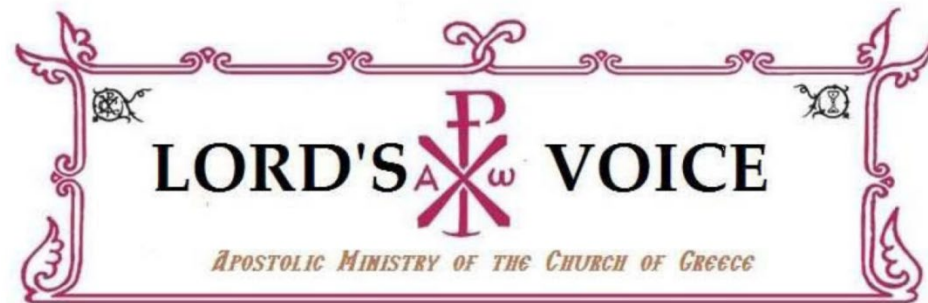
EOTHINON : *Eothinon 8*

SUNDAY, MAY 28 2023 THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF

PASCHA SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS Commemoration of the holy Hieromartyr Eutychius, Bishop of Melitene, the holy Martyr Heliconis, Nikitas, Bishop of Chalcedon, Hieromartyr Helladius,

EPISTLE READING : *Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18, 28-36*

GOSPEL READING : *John 17:1-13*



71ST YEAR MAY 21 2023 PAMPHLET # 21 (3651)

CONSTANTINE THE GREAT

On this day, the Church honors the memory of the god-crowned kings and equal to the Apostles, Constantine and his mother Helen. Constantine was the first Roman Emperor, who supported Christianity, in contrast to the emperors before him who persecuted the Church.

Among his great works is the transfer of the capital of the state from Rome to Byzantium and the founding of Constantinople, whose inauguration took place on May 11, 330. Also, the sending of Saint Helen to Jerusalem, with the purpose of searching and finding the Precious Cross and the sacred places connected with the earthly presence of Christ, such as Golgotha and the Lifegiving Tomb. Also, his concern for peace of the Church, which was being shaken by the heresy of Arius, and the convening the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea (325) for this reason. At the end of his life, he was baptized in Nicomedia, where he also reposed on the day of Pentecost in the year 337. The Bishop of Caesarea of Palestine, Eusebius (4th century), the father of Church History, writes that Constantine's last words were: "Now I know that I am truly blessed; now I know that I have been granted eternal life; now I know that I am a partaker of

THE SUNDAY EPISTLE (ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 26:1-12-20)

IN THOSE DAYS, King Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense: "I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles—to whom I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' "Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and perform deeds worthy of their repentance."

the divine Light." From a political and from an ecclesiastical viewpoint, the work of Constantine the Great is truly groundbreaking and unique. It profoundly influenced the history

of the world, it Christianized Europe and the Roman Empire and put an end to the unjust persecutions against the Christians.

The Apostle Paul and Constantine the Great

Saint Constantine, keeping the analogies, had in his life, a revelation similar to that of the Apostle Paul, when he was on the road to Damascus. It is the appearance in the sky of a very large Cross that he was granted to see, around which was the inscription: "In this be victorious". And, as is well known, in the crucial battle of the Milvian bridge that took place the day after the apparition, on October 28, 312, the Cross was that which gave the victory. After this miraculous event, Constantine began to convert to Christianity. His favor towards the Church, and his desire to spread the faith, were not simply external actions of political expediency, but conscious actions with an internal, godly and moral reflection.

The conversion of Constantine the Great, reminds us of the conversion of the Apostle of the Nations. That is why the Church appointed that the passage from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles be read today, which refers to this event, which was of decisive importance for the life of the Church and the spread of Christianity "to all the nations".

Paul, around the year 34 AD, and while he was on his way to the synagogues of Damascus, with the aim of bringing the Christians he would find there, as captives to Jerusalem, experienced one of the most shocking events that can happen in a person's life. He was granted to see, in heavenly light, the Risen Christ, and from that moment, his existence was transformed. From a persecutor of the Church, he became the chief Apostle of Christ.

The sight of the divine apparition of light, radically renewed him, a fact for which the sacred Chrysostom praises God, saying: "who can tell the wonderful works of your power,