

the temptations and no one will be saved", said Anthony the Great. Man may be grieved by his fellow man and be hurting. However, his communion with Christ helps him not to narrow the space of his heart (stenochoria in Greek - narrow-area). That is, to not stop sympathizing and loving his fellow human being who causes the grief. Thus, the believer is lead to patience, to the tried character and hope. Which hope, as a gift from the Holy Spirit, cannot possibly disappoint man. It graces him with a permanent optimism that comes from living faith. And, finally, the love of God, witnesses, verifies for all these things, with which the Holy Spirit that was given to us, filled and overflowed in our hearts.

Archim. N.K

**SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023 3RD SUNDAY OF**

**MATTHEW** ,Leavetaking of the Nativity of the Forerunner John the Baptist ,The Righteous Martyr Febronia ,Methodius of Nevritos, Nativity of the Forerunner John the Baptist , Elizabeth, Mother of the Forerunner,Athanasios Parios , Panagiotis the New Martyr .

**EPISTLE READING** : St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 5:1-10

**GOSPEL READING** : Matthew 6:22-33

**STONE OF THE WEEK** : Second Tone

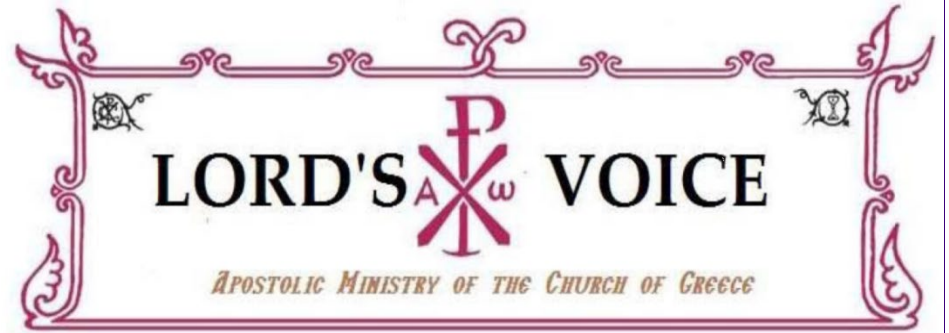
**EOTHINON** : Third Eothinon

**SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2023 4TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW** ,

Deposition of the Precious Robe of the Theotokos in Blachernae, Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos of the Orphan, Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cosmas & Damian the Holy Unmercenaries, Constantine the New Martyr of Cyprus, Aaron and Julius the Martyrs of Caerelon, Germanus, Bishop of the Isle of Man

**EPISTLE READING** : St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 9:1-7

**GOSPEL READING** : Matthew 8:5-13



71<sup>ST</sup> YEAR JUNE 25 2023 PAMPHLET # 26 (3656)

## MAN'S JUSTICIATION IN CHRIST

Today's Epistle reading also comes from the Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Our passage begins with Paul's reference to man's justification in Christ, which originates from the sacrifice on the cross and the Resurrection of the Lord. Justification is God's decision by which man is freed from his sins and becomes righteous, i.e. liked, pleasing before God.

Christ "delivered himself for our transgressions and was raised for our justification" (Rom. 4:25). So, justification, as a scriptural and theological term, means man's salvation and rebirth, that is, his union with Christ through faith.

After all, justification, salvation, is an energy of God's Grace, in which man cooperates with living faith, as an expression of absolute trust and love for God.

### Faith in Christ

And faith in Jesus Christ means that the believer recognizes the person of the Lord, He whom the Father sent

**THE SUNDAY EPISTLE ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE  
ROMANS 5:1-10**

Brethren, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die.

But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life..

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to save the world. It means that he accepts His words as "words of eternal life" (John 6:68), that he risks everything for His Kingdom, that he accepts to lose everything to gain Christ. Faith in Jesus Christ means for us to know "the love that God has in us" and to confess that "God is love" (1 John 4:16). Through faith, we become capable of living the life of Christ and of becoming communicants of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Peace in Christ**

The Apostle Paul connects the effectiveness of man's justification in Christ with the presence of peace in the human being. Peace has to do with the harmonious functioning of all man's powers, which, however, were disturbed by sin, and broke the unity of existence. And this, because sin, as "the train of thought of the flesh" (Rom. 8:7) and as "the friendship of the world" (James 4:4), caused and continues to cause separation, man's alienation from God and fellow man. The reacquisition of peace in man, is achieved through his personal communion with Christ, who revealed to us the way and the ethos of God's existence.

With His love, Christ convinces us of the truth of our creation "in the image of God". And thus, the believer gets out of the narrow straits of egotism. He recognizes that his existence is a gift from God; and that he carries within him the image of the One who made peace with the earthly and the heavenly things "through the blood of his cross" (Col. 1:20). Therefore, he is led from existence to coexistence; to the communion of love with God and fellow human beings.

Peace unites the many into one, while with its absence, the one is divided into many. Since the peace of Christ refers to all the dimensions of human life, precisely living this peace, the believer makes peace with the whole world. "Be at peace within yourself", says Saint Isaac the Syrian, "and heaven and earth will be pacified with you".

**Boasting in trials**

The believer, as the Apostle emphasizes, boasts not only about the hope of his participation in the glory of Christ, but also for the various trials and tribulations, because trials contribute man's upward course. "Take away