

condition that consists in the presence of Christ in our lives. Certainly, peace as an unfailing condition exists only in the Kingdom of God. However, as the Kingdom of God begins from the present life and is within us, thus also is the peace of God. In this way, the peace of God appears as given and as requested; as present and as expected.

May we, with the bond of peace, which is offered to us as a fruit of the evangelical life and as a gift of God, experience the reconciliation in Christ with everyone; may we foretaste from the present of history to the forever of Paradise

Archim. N.K

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023 9TH SUNDAY OF LUKE,

Obadiah the Prophet , Martyr Barlaam of Caesarea , Martyr Heliodorus ,Anthimos, Thallalaeos, Christopher, Euphemia & her children, the Martyrs

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's Letter to Ephesians 2:14-22*

GOSPEL READING : *Luke 12:16-21*

TONE OF THE WEEK : *Grave Tone*

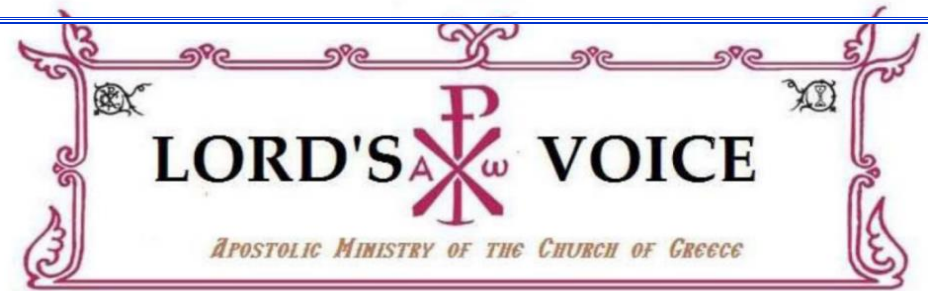
ETHINON : *Second Eothinon*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023 13TH SUNDAY OF LUKE,

Alypius the Stylite of Adrianopolis , Nikon Metanoite, Stylianos the Monk of Paphlagonia, orge the New Martyr of Chios , Akakios of Sinai who is mentioned in The Ladder,

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's Letter to Ephesians 4:1-7*

GOSPEL READING : *Luke 18:18-27*



71ST YEAR NOVEMBER 19 2023 PAMPHLET # 47 (3677)

CHRIST IS OUR PEACE"

The central point of today's Epistle reading is the peace, which Christ offers to the world. This peace is inconceivable to the human mind; "it surpasses all understanding" (Phil. 4:7), as Paul writes in another of his epistles. And this, because it is not simply about a peaceful framework for social living or about the demand for harmonious coexistence between peoples; nor about something that is founded on worldly regimes and human achievements.

Christ himself is the personification of God's peace and of reconciliation, the One who wants to lead man to reconciliation with God, with himself, with his fellow man. As Saint Cyril of Alexandria says: "we are all one both in one another and in Christ; for Christ is the bond of unity".

Christ's offer of peace

Christ, says the Apostle, by His death on the cross tore down that which, like a wall, divided and caused enmity between two conflicting worlds, the Jews and the Gentiles; he united them in one body and reconciled them to God. This is the work of Christ in every age; since the motive which causes enmity, division, the

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

feeling of superiority over others is egotism, the root of all sin and evil in people's lives.

However, Christ with His humility and peace overturns the power of sin, that is, the heavy confusion within man himself and between men, which leads to violence and the conflicts. Since sin breaks up the harmonious function of existence and causes disharmony and opposition of the various powers between them. The transcendence of this situation is found in man's acceptance of Christ's love, which pacifies our inner world. Then the person ceases to oppose the other, in order to

dominate and impose himself. He foretastes the abolition of corruption and death with the power of love and the peace of Christ.

Finding peace

In the person of Christ, Who is perfect God and perfect Man, man finds true peace. The struggle to find it outside of God often disappoints man. Because world peace is limited and fragile and its preservation is faulty and conventional. It is wounded by egotism and selfishness by the prevailing of the law of the powerful one and the lack of freedom, justice, truth and love.

Saint Gregory Palamas referring to the ways with which peace is realized in relation to God, ourselves and our fellow man urges us to make peace with God, doing what pleases Him. That is, living according to His holy will, with wisdom, love, repentance, and prayer. Subsequently, he recommends that we make peace with ourselves by subjecting the carnal train of thought and egotism to the Spirit and the Word of God, attending to our conscience and taking care of the purity of our calculations. And finally, he asks us to make peace with other people, as much as it depends on us, having true love for them, understanding, forgiveness, magnanimity, just as Christ has for everyone.

Striving to acquire peace

Peace is not simply the absence of clashes and conflicts under their various forms but, primarily, it is a spiritual