

Since the Holy Spirit constitutes the unity of the Church and calls every believer to agreement and unanimity of mind, then the unity of believers among themselves and with the Church is an indication of the presence or of the absence of the Holy Spirit from their lives. The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives is a fundamental condition for our salvation. That is why the Apostle also teaches that Christ is not our individual savior, as the heretics say, but the Savior of His body, that is, of the Church (Eph. 5:23). And we believers are saved to the extent that we are united with the Body of Christ. And herein lies the extraordinary privilege and ultimate responsibility of all of us who profess faith in Christ and are members of His Church.

Archim. N.K

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023 13TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

Alypius the Stylite of Adrianopolis , Nikon Metanoeite, 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*

TONE OF THE WEEK : *Grave Tone*

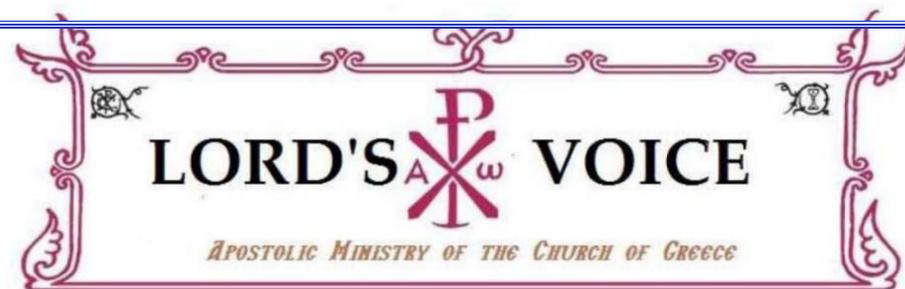
ETHINON : *Second Eothinon*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 26, 2023 14TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

The Holy Prophet Sophonios, Our Righteous Father John, Bishop and Hesychast, Holy Martyrs Agapius and Seleucius, Theodore Archbishop of Alexandria, Angelis the New Martyr, Karpos the Hieromartyr.

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's Letter to Ephesians 5:8-19*

GOSPEL READING : *Luke 18:35-43*



71ST YEAR NOVEMBER 26 2023 PAMPHLET # 48 (3678)

WALK WORTHILY OF THE CALLING"

The Apostle Paul in today's reading, calls every person to "walk worthily of the calling to which he has been called" that is, to define his earthly course according to God's will, which is salvation in Christ, as a sharing in God's Kingdom of love.

In fact, this exhortation of Paul acquires special weight, if we consider that he wrote his letter to the Ephesians, from which our passage comes from, while he was imprisoned, bound in Rome, for the name of Jesus Christ. It's shocking that he does not ask the Christians of Ephesus to become interested in freeing him from the shackles of prison, to strive for him to be acquitted or to send him some help to relieve him of his hardships and the deprivations of prison. He begs them, however, to live in a way worthy of the One who called them to the new life, that is, into the communion of Christ's love. And this way does not refer to the conventional improvement of their personal, social or professional life, but in the manifestation of their acceptance of Christ's presence. In this way, man's existence is recognized and his relationship

EPISTLE ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO EPHESIANS 4:1-7

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

with God and fellow man is established in the level of evangelical love.

Man's response to God's calling

As long as man accepts God's call, then his existence must be in a state of unceasing vigilance and readiness, as there is a risk to reject the calling because of sin. Therefore, the believer must take care of those elements that define his spiritual life and course in Christ. The Apostle speaks about them, recommending that we live with humblemindedness, meekness and long-suffering. In extreme brevity, we emphasize that humblemindedness is the transcendence and transformation of egocentrism, which causes countless obstacles and impasses in human existence, while it is also the root of all sin.

The Lord asks us to learn from the example of His own meekness and humility (Matthew 11:29), because God is supremely humble; as the Most High and Almighty, He offers

His crucified love indiscriminately to all. The person who apprentices in the humility of Christ, manifests, through his existence, the radiant appearance of the Lord. So with humility and meekness he offers his fellow man spaciousness and warmth of soul. With the power of these virtues the other's egotism becomes useless, who, not infrequently, himself chooses to follow the path of divine humblemindedness and not that of Luciferian egoism, which leads to perdition, disharmony and the breakup of the soul's balance.

With longsuffering (tolerance, patience), man continues to be lenient and forgiving, even in cases where others disturb his state of soul. That is why the sacred Chrysostom characteristically underlines: "If you don't forbear your neighbor, how will God forbear you? If you cannot suffer your fellow servant, how will God forbear you? However, where there is love, everything is bearable".

The responsibility of our calling

Man's meeting and communion with God, who is constantly inviting everyone, takes place with the influence of the Holy Spirit in the area of the Church as the Body of Christ and a communion of unbreakable unity. Thus, the believers have the greatest responsibility to bear one another with love, and to try to preserve, with the peace that binds them together, the unity that the Holy Spirit of God gives. That is why Paul points out that those who believe in Christ are one body and one spirit; one is the hope for which God called us. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and dwells in all.