

to the divine radiance, which leads to eternity. Repentance means, finally, that we recognize good and evil, love and hate, and we choose and believe in the love of Christ. Only then will our life be filled with light, our heart with joy, and our world with happiness.

Archim. E. L

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024. *Leavetaking of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ The Holy Fathers slain at Sinai and Raitho Plato the Hieromartyr, Bishop of Tallini and all Estonia, and the Priest Martyrs Michael and Nicholas, Agnes the Virgin-martyr, Sabbas (Sava), Archbishop of Serbia, Nina of Georgia.*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13*

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 4:12-17*

TONE OF THE WEEK : *Grave Tone*

ETHINON : *Tenth Eothinon*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024. 12TH SUNDAY OF LUKE , Maximus the Confessor, Martyrs Neophytos, Agnes, Patroclus, Maximus the Greek and Eugene of Trebizond, Neophytos the Martyr of Nicaea

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11*

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 17:12-19*



72ST YEAR JANUARY 14 2024 PAMPHLET #02 (3685)

LIGHT AND LIFE DAWNED FOR US

In today's Gospel passage, Christ learns about John's imprisonment. He leaves Nazareth and goes to Capernaum, a populous city by the lake of Gennesaret. The Baptist is setting – he is withdrawing from the foreground - because the light has come. He completed his mission, preparing people to accept the Messiah, and Christ, just as He quietly came to earth, so He quietly begins his preaching. However, the power of His speech is so effective, so true, that the people immediately see Him, hear Him and follow Him. It was not by chance that He began his preaching in Galilee.

Those who live in the land which death overshadows

The area was a commercial center and because of the association of Jews with idolaters, the Jews had forgotten God and His law. That is why the mental and

GOSPEL READING : MATTHEW 4:12-17

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

spiritual condition of the people there is characterized by the words "darkness" and "death". From darkness and death, Christ begins the preaching of repentance, to give light and life to His people, who live in sin, injustice, and moral degradation. Christ went alone to save them, to enlighten their conscience, and for them to drive away the darkness of sin. Only the light of Christ's teaching can illuminate our hearts and minds. He assured us that He is light and life, and whoever follows Him will never live in darkness.

This course and continuity is His Church, within which Christ is experienced, and man is reborn. Every Christian is enlightened, and then can transfer Christ's light to society. Despite everything that Christ gives us, however, we people live in darkness and sin, because, as the evangelist John says, the sinful person, who is immersed in passions, hates the light, and fears it, so that his works do not show. Thus, we also, many times daily also, do not want Christ, we deny Him, we drive Him away with the way we live, and we scorn Him. Our passions, like thick clouds, hide the light in our lives, which is Christ, they prevent us from enjoying our life, which is filled with darkness. However, Christ is waiting for us steadfastly like the sun, to illuminate us. To drive away the passionate clouds that prevent us from seeing Him.

With repentance we come to the light

How can we change this situation? The Lord tells it to us today with "Be ye repenting, for the Kingdom of the Heavens approached." Repentance is not a feeling of guilt or sorrow for sin. Repentance is a change of mind, a transformation of our vision. It is a new way of seeing ourselves, others, and God. It is repositioning the center of our life in Christ. Repentance means to open our eyes