

behind me, cannot be my disciple". We Christians don't have another way to live except only the way of the cross of Christ, that is, sharing every moment of our life the with Christ's humility, His sacrifice, the victory over the passions and of our egotism. We live in a world dominated by the anti-crucifactory spirit. A world whose ideals are prosperity, well-being, comfort, which places freedom not in sacrifice and love, but in egotism. The cross of the Lord, which is elevated in the life of the Church in the middle of Great Lent, reminds the whole world and us, when we choose the cross as a way of our life, as the state of our ecclesiastical life, then we will also have the Resurrection. Then we experience true freedom, true rest in the love of God and the love of our brothers, the true peace of soul.

Archim. F. A

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024 SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS ,
Calliopos and Akylina the Martyrs ,George, Bishop of Mytilene ,
Gerasimos the God-Bearer of Byzantium, Righteous Father Savvas
the New of Kalymnos, Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and
Enlightener of North America.

EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul's Letter to Hebrews* 4:14-16; 5:1-6

GOSPEL READING : *Mark* 8:34-38; 9:1

TONE OF THE WEEK: *Third Tone*

EOTHINON *Eleventh Eothinon*

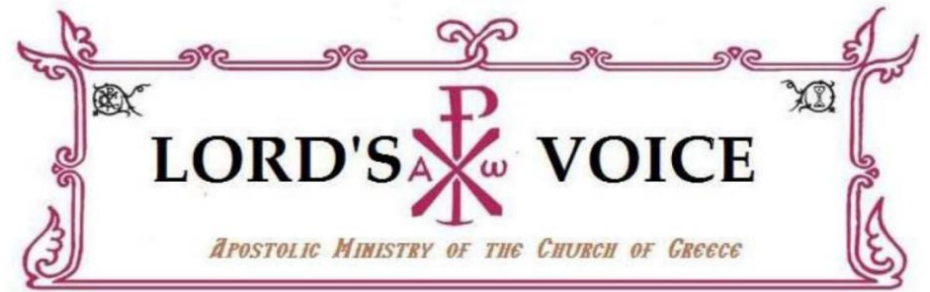
SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024 SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN

CLIMACUS , *Aristarchus, Podens, Trophimus the Apostles of 70.*

*Thomais the Martyr of Alexandria, Ardalion the Actor and Martyr,
Demetrius the New Martyr of Arkadia.*

EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul's Letter to Hebrews* 6:13-20

GOSPEL READING : *Mark* 9:17-31



72ST YEAR APRIL 7 2024 PAMPHLET # 14 (3697)

THE MYSTERY OF THE CROSS

The Precious Cross is the most valuable sign and symbol of our faith. According to the teaching of our Church, the cross of Christ's is the glory of Christ, the glory of the Church, the will of the Father, the glory of the Only Begotten One, the joy of the Spirit, the world of the Angels, the safety of the Church, the wall of the Saints, the light of the World. According to Saint Gregory the Palamas "not only the word about the Cross and the mystery, but also the form is divine and venerated, because it is a venerable, sanctifying and perfecting seal of all the wonderful and inexpressible goods that come from God". All the emptiness, the poverty, the humiliation, the pain, the death, which Christ received for us, culminates in the cross. All the holy mysteries end with the invocation of the Holy Spirit and the seal of the cross.

GOSPEL READING : MARK 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

The Sacred Churches, the sacred vessels and the vestments are sanctified with the Precious Cross. No liturgical action or assembly of the faithful can be understood without the seal of the Precious Cross.

The cross of Christ

The grace and power of the Precious Cross is not due to its shape, in other words, that it is a cross, but because it is the cross of Christ, the means by which Christ saved the world. It is the altar on which he offered himself as a sacrifice for all the world, as a sacrificer and as a victim. On the cross he experienced the deepest pain, and the greatest humiliation for us. He became a curse "for us" to free us from the curse of sin and the law. All the work of Christ, all his philanthropy are summed up in his sacrifice on the cross. And when Peter

advised Christ to avoid death on the cross, the Lord severely reprimanded him:

"Get behind me, Satan, for you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men".

The Cross and man

At the cross, the old age of death stopped and with the Resurrection of Christ, which is connected with the cross, the new age began, the era of man's theosis and salvation. On the Cross, the God-man Christ solved the tragedy of human freedom becoming obedient unto death, the death of the cross, and re-directed our freedom to his Creator, the holy Triune God.

Through the cross, he reconciled us to God the Father and granted us the forgiveness of our sins. Through the cross he gathered together and united in one body, the formerly scattered children of God. On the cross, with His exaltation, full of humility, he also exalted our own nature which with the false and vain haughtiness had been brought down to Hades. On the cross he revealed himself as the only benefactor and savior, redeemer and lifegiver of the whole world and definitively abolished the work of the devil.

Participation in the cross of Christ

However, just as a true Christ cannot be understood without a cross, thus a true Christian cannot be understood without a cross, i.e. without participation in the cross of Christ. "He who does not bear his own cross and come