

## PASCHA, THE LORDS, PASCHA

Pascha, the Lord's, Pascha, again I will say Pascha, in honor of the Holy Trinity. This is the feast of feasts and the celebration of celebrations, which so far exceeds all others, not only the human ones coming from below, but even the feasts of Christ himself and those celebrated in his honor, as much as the sun surpasses the stars [...].

Today we celebrate this Resurrection, no longer as something we hope for, but already as an event that brings the whole world together. Therefore, let everyone offer as a fruit something different this season, and bring a festive gift, whether small or large, of what is spiritual and beloved to God, according to his strength. Because, a gift worthy of the celebration, even the angels, the first intelligent and pure ones, and overseers and witnesses of the divine glory, could hardly achieve, even if every kind of hymnology is possible for them.

**Sunday, may 5, 2024 Great and Holy Pascha**, *Irene the Great Martyr, Neophytos, Gaius, & Caianus the Monk-martyrs, The Righteous Martyr Ephraim the Younger, Euthymios the Wonderworker, Bishop of Madytos*

**Epistle Reading:** *Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8*

**Gospel Reading :** *John 1:1-17*

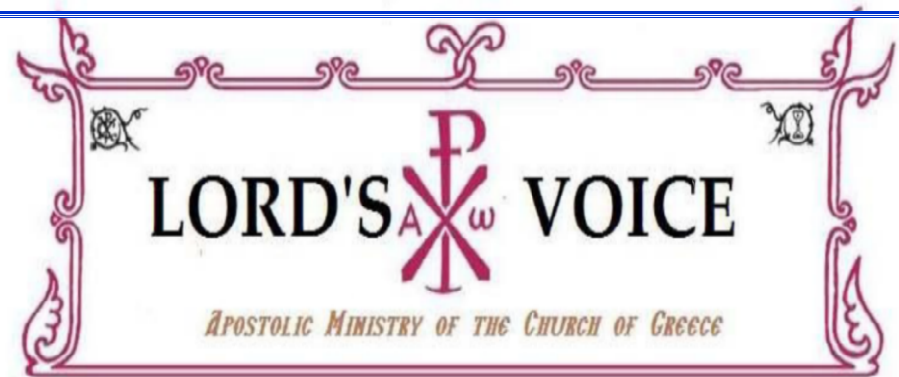
*Tone of the Week:*

*Eothinon*

**Sunday, may 12, 2024 Thomas Sunday**, *Martyrs Emmanuel, Theodore, George, Michael and the other George of Samothrace, Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus, Germanos, Patriarch of Constantinople. Removal of the Sacred Relics of Saint Joachim "Papoulakis" of Vatopaidi, Theodorus the Righteous of Cythera*

**Epistle Reading:** *Acts of the Apostles 5:12-20*

**Gospel Reading :** *John 20:19-31*



72<sup>ST</sup> YEAR MAY 5 2024 PAMPHLET # 18 (3701)

## "LIFE AND RESURRECTION"

On this blessed evening of the spring of life, this blessed Pascha, the "Voice of the Lord" addresses you all. The shepherds and those pastored, our priests and our Christians, you, our brethren. It addresses itself with simplicity to the heart of every well-intentioned person and especially to young people who freely seek the truth.

Holy Saturday, in the liturgical time of the Church, was the day of Great Silence. And this silence of the days that we experienced, cannot in any case be replaced by human verbalism and timely proclamations. Why? Because "life sleeps, life sleeps, and hades trembles". Because "Christ is risen and life reigns".

The Resurrection resurrects us! The Resurrection is the victory of death, of man's worst enemy. The Resurrection is our life and our expectation. The essence of our life and state.

## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (John 1:1-17)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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The Resurrection is the confirmation of our hope, that we will enter the joy of our Lord, despite the abundance of words

and images that are against the truth of the universality of the Church and they try to "convince" us of the love of Christ by submitting God to the logic of creation. However, God's ways are not those of men.

The Resurrection gives us the strength to preach that faith is not an ideology to which one subscribes, but a journey of transformation and holiness, which leads to our personal resurrection in the risen Christ. That is why the Church has members. Not fans.

The Resurrection gives us the strength to overcome fear and the trenches, the differences and divisions, the ephemeral things and the phenomena. It gives us the strength to feel the sharing of the invincible weakness of God's love. To eucharistically open up together to the world and put ourselves at the service of man. We have been called to unfold the power of the Resurrection through history.

The light defeats the darkness! Nothing can scare us anymore! No one can take away the joy of God from our lives! Tonight, at midnight, from the Holy Vema to the tomb of the Lord, the unsetting light of the Risen Christ comes out and shines in our hearts and homes. "Light of light, true God of true God! This "light of Christ", which is "visible to all", we are all called to receive and become the light of Christ.

CHRIST IS RISEN! + F. A.