

Myrrhbearing and resurrected people

The crisis of our age, is nothing but a challenge to delve deeper into the mystery of Christ's life, to "know Him and the power of His resurrection and the communion of His sufferings" (Phil. 3:10). Let us also become myrrhbearers. Because, myrrhbearers are not only the women who went to the Tomb of Christ with myrrhs, but the whole of human nature after the Resurrection of the Lord, and especially those who live sacramentally in the Church.

To all of you, we proclaim the message of the Resurrection, our powerful consolation, repeating the words of the Risen Lord to the Myrrhbearing women: "Rejoice. Peace to you

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024 SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN , *Patrick the Hieromartyr and Bishop of Prusa and His Fellow Martyrs Acacius, Menander, and Polyaeus , Our Righteous Father Memnonus the Wonderworker, Theotima & Kyriake the Martyrs*

EPISTLE READING: *Acts of the Apostles*6:1-7

GOSPEL READING : Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8

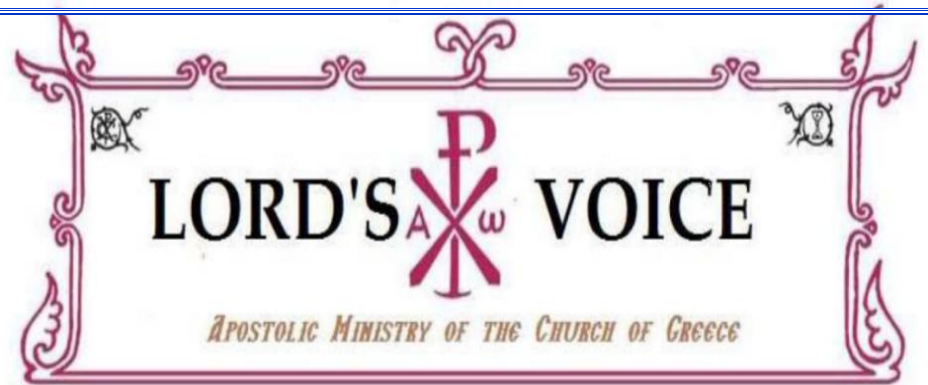
TONE OF THE WEEK: *Second Tone*

EOTHINON *Fourth*

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72ST YEAR MAY 19 2024 PAMPHLET # 20 (3703)

THE WITNESSES OF THE RESURRECTION

The third Sunday from the Resurrection is dedicated to the honor and holy memory of the Myrrh-bearing women, Joseph of Arimathea, the hidden disciple of the Lord, and the noble senator Nicodemus, the night disciple of the Lord, witnesses of the Resurrection of the Lord. The persons of these holy martyrs reveal the essence and power of faith, the ontological bond and communion between God and man.

The meaning of faith

Faith is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, it is the indwelling and presence of the believer in God and of God within the one who believes, it is the result of the cooperation of man and God. Through faith we were reborn and through faith we were united with Christ, we became partakers and communicants of His new deified human nature and His divine Life, and therefore "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Pet. 1:4).

Only with this holy faith of our Christ, which is the beginning of our union with God, can we endure and bear witness to the Lord, to learn what God's Grace is, not to be afraid, to know how responsible is our life as Christians, and to lift the stone, as the Angel of the Lord rolled away the stone from the door of the tomb of the Master Christ.

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8)

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid

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What does God ask of us?

And today the Church announces to the world the existence of the living God and the hope of the coming of the Kingdom of God in history. God is a God of mercy and charity, forgiveness and loving care. Out of infinite love for man, God Himself dispels the darkness of hell, so that the beauty of the face is illuminated, and the beauty of the world is revealed. God does not ask for anything other than trust and a response to His call. What saves man, what leaves him whole, not subject to decay and death, is the act of self-offering and self-surrender into the hands of God. Then the person, having conquered fear, becomes, with spiritual courage, a witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. St. Chrysostom writes: "First (the Angel) frees the myrrh-bearers from fear and then he speaks of resurrection... Having therefore freed them from fear, both with his words and appearance..., he added saying" I know that you are seeking for Jesus the Crucified".

And he is not ashamed to call Him Crucified, because this was the beginning of good things. "He is risen!". And they came out of the tomb with joy and fear, because they saw an amazing and strange thing, the empty tomb, where they had previously seen Him buried".