

affirmatively to the Grace of the Spirit, then it is transfigured. For this reason, let us pray for this and strive for this. "O Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and resting in the Son, come, indescribable Light, filling and animating everything, and enlighten us who are darkened by the passions; heal our nature that was crushed by the fall of Adam, and by the communion of the immaculate Mysteries of the Christ, print in us the image of Him, the humble and meek Lamb of God, the one who takes away the sins of the world; we beseech You, hear quickly and have mercy".

† F. A.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024 HOLY PENTECOST , AGRIPPINA

THE MARTYR OF ROME , Holy Martyrs Aristocleus the Priest, Demetrius the Deacon and Athanasius the Reader, The Holy New Bishop Martyrs Gerasimus of Crete, Neophytos of Knossos, Joachim of Cherronisos, Hierotheos of Lampi, Zachariah of Sitia, Joachim of Petra, Gerasimos of Rethymno, Kallinikos of Kydonia, Melchizedek of Kissamos, Kallinikos of Diopolos, and those Martyred with them . Mark, Bishop of Ephesus , Etheldreda the Queen

EPISTLE READING: *Acts of the Apostles 2:1 – 11*

GOSPEL READING

TONE OF THE WEEK: *FOURTH Tone*

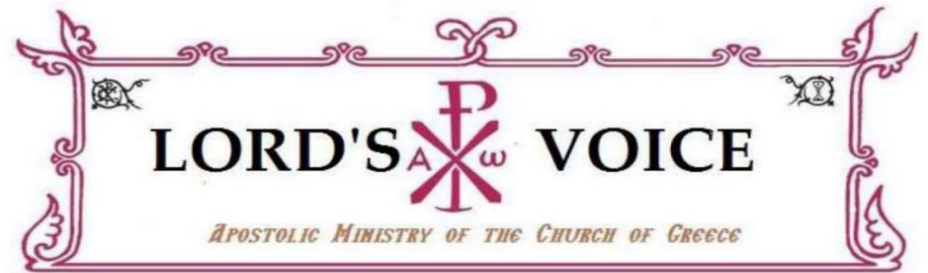
EOTHINON *Sixth*

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024 Synaxis of the Twelve Holy

Apostles Michael the New Martyr of Athens

EPISTLE READING: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-

GOSPEL READING : Matthew 9:36, 10:1-8



72ST YEAR JUNE 23 2024 PAMPHLET # 25 (3708)

THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

The Church is founded simultaneously on the Eucharist and on Pentecost. In the time of the Gospel, Christ was historically visible, He was in front of His Disciples. But Pentecost gives the world the mystical presence of Christ and reveals Him - not in front of the Disciples - but within the Disciples, in their hearts.

This mystical presence of Christ acts precisely through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not an abstract divine energy, but one of the three persons of the Holy Trinity, who proceeds from the Father and rests in the Son.

Thus, Christ sends the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit forms Christ in our hearts. Jesus Christ comes in the name of the Father to reveal and work His will in the world. The Holy Spirit comes in the name of the Son to testify about Him, to reveal Him and to finish His work.

The Holy Spirit and Church

The Fathers bear witness to the agreement of the Church on the relationship between our lives and the Holy Spirit. The certainty of the patristic theology is that without the communion

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (JOHN 7:37-52; 8:12)

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

of the Holy Spirit, the witness becomes an empty formula, the ministry an artificiality, the prayer a monologue, the communion an impersonal mass, the pastoral effort an organizational movement in a vacuum. On the contrary, with the Holy Spirit we have God's life, victory from the fall, repentance and new life from sin. Those who are baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity and put on the Lord and enter His Body, the Church, with the energy of the Holy Spirit appropriate the life of God.

The Holy Spirit and man

All man's diligence and struggle are concentrated in the acquisition of the Spirit of the Lord and in the production of his fruits, by which he is known and through which the Christian life is expressed. The purpose of all people who live according to God is to please Christ, God, and with their participation in the Holy Spirit to become friends with God and the Father and thus obtain their salvation. This salvation which was realized with Christ cannot be conceived of without the Holy Spirit. The patristic tradition is rich in this point: "Without the Holy Spirit we are strangers and far from God, but with our participation in the grace of the Spirit we meet with the godhead. So that for us to be in God - the Father, is not our own achievement, but of the Spirit that is and remains within us", says Saint Irenaeus. If man is God-like and Christ-like, and Christ-formed if he is a "making of God created in Christ Jesus", this is due to the presence of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit builds up the Body of Christ, perfects the sacraments, bestows, activates, increases and completes everything, bestows upon us every fullness of blessing in the present and in the future age.

The absence of the Spirit of God gives rise to the inner desolation and ruin of man, confusion and perversion, lies and tragedy, the weakness and failure of the so-called spiritual life. The alienation of the world from the Holy Spirit gives birth to its crisis and suffering. It is the invasion of secularism in our lives, with which the breath and energy of the Holy Spirit is extinguished and is completely replaced by the human will and human activity.

"Come, O Holy Spirit"

Living in a world that offers programs to improve human life and is occupied with the advertising of material things, we must re-evaluate the importance of the feast of Pentecost which teaches us that, every time the human existence responds