

Lord will forgive us who forgive all people, even also whoever "owe us".

The resurrectional proofs may not convince whoever wishes to see life based on senses and rationalism. Those who have trust in their own powers, in human achievements, in the conviction that we exist only for today. Whoever though, partakes in the joy of the Resurrection, whoever of us lift our candles, showing that also in our hands and in our heart we are holding the brilliance of the victor over death, whomever of us commune the resurrected One, and we allow Him to dwell in our hearts, we certify humanity with the triumphant, joyous and hope-bearing cry: Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen! And we with Him!

Fr. T. M

SUNDAY MAY 2, 2021 GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA *Removal of the Relics of St. Athanasius the Great, Hesperos & Zoe the Righteous, Boris, King & Enlightener of Bulgaria (Michael in Baptism), Jordan the Wonderworker*

TONE OF THE WEEK : -

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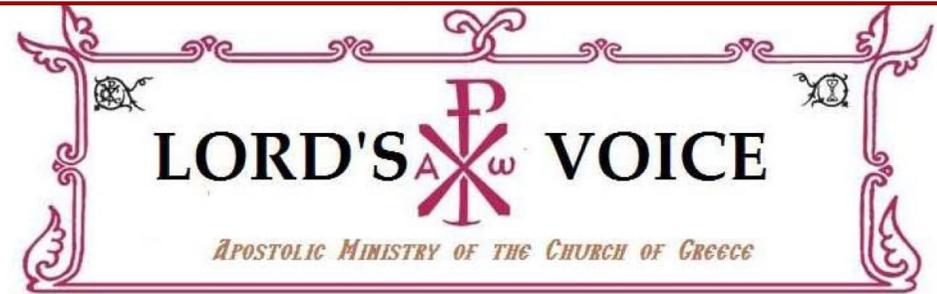
EPISTLE READING : Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8

GOSPEL READING : John 1:1-17

SUNDAY MAY 9, 2021 THOMAS SUNDAY *The Holy Prophet Esaias (Isaiah) , Christopher the Martyr of Lycea , Monk-martyr Nicholas who lived in Vuneni, of Larissa in Thessaly, Epimachos the New Martyr of Alexandria , The New Martyrs of Novo Selo, Bulgaria*

EPISTLE READING : Acts of the Apostles 5:12-20

GOSPEL READING : John 20:19-31



69TH YEAR MAY 2, 2021 PAMPHLET # 18 (3544)

RESURRECTIONAL PROOFS?

Contemporary man seeks proofs for faith. In this agony, this is what he accepts, and this is what certifies whatever he does not have, about death and about, if eternal life exists. He calls upon his need to truly know what is happening and what will happen in the hereafter. So, for this reason also, in our times, disbelief abounds. Faith however, will never cease proclaiming the Resurrection of our Christ as the sole answer, which gives meaning to life and eternity to the seeker man. And he will invoke validations which, he who wants, is able to verify their authenticity in time.

The witness of the Apostles

The first validation is the witness of the Apostles. "After his death Christ appeared to them alive with many proofs. For forty days he was appearing to them and speaking to them related to the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3). The Apostles did not invent the event of the Resurrection. They lived it in repeated meetings with the resurrected Christ. They were assured touching Him, seeing Him supping with them, discussing, encouraging them, foretelling the coming of the Holy Spirit; the journey of the entire world to the kingdom of God. And they shared this joy with all people, who subsequently disciples near them, were baptized, lived the life of faith. We also are disciples of the

EPISTLE READING ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 1:1-8

In the first book, O Theophilos, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Apostles, as members of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. This means that we accept the experience of the resurrected Christ, entrusting their word and example. And we partake in their joy, which becomes our joy!

The confession of the Saints

The second validation is the confession of the Saints of our faith. Martyrs, ascetics, clergymen and lay people, men, women, and children dedicated themselves to Christ unto death. They did not yield before the power of three great authorities. The first is the secular one, which continued crucifying in various ways, whoever believed in the resurrected One, giving the crown of the martyrdom of blood, of the martyrdom of scorn and of curses, of exile from the delights of life. The

second is this, which considers as man's purpose to be pleased with his life based on the goods and the pleasures of the culture of each age, when he poses question: "How can each one be happy?" And this authority projects the event that we live just once, and faith seeks that we proceed with deprivations of the goods, of the rights of the enjoyments in the name of a Resurrection, which will delay coming. The third is that of fear, that death leads us to annihilation, to non-existence, to nothing, and what is the reason for us to believe? Our Saints however, defeated all three authorities, because they lived the experience of the presence of Christ. They communed Him in the mysteries of the Church. They lived Him in love to their fellow men. They had the mystical joy of prayer. They could see the miracles which happened in the name of the resurrected One. And with courage, they proceeded before the rulers of the world of this age, showing that "the gates of Hades shall not prevail over the Church" (Mt. 16:18) and of the faith that this shows.

The power of forgiveness

The third validation is the spreading of the Gospel of the resurrected Christ not by force and wars, but through love and forgiveness. The world was evangelized, seeing the Christians loving their enemies. Choosing instead of revenge, prayer for whoever mistreated them, for whoever troubled them, tortured them, killed them. Offering themselves to the service of their neighbor, sacrificing their own selves! Forbearing, putting up with, giving, even if they were not receiving anything as a recompense. This ethos of love and of forgiveness changed the world, the journey of human history, the way with which people saw their fellow man. This ethos springs from the prayer of Christ on the cross to His Father to forgive His crucifiers. It springs from the All Holy Tomb, in which the Triune God forgave human sin and apostasy. It springs from the hope that the resurrected