

spiritual values and the rejection of rudeness. The boundaries, with the commandments of God and the spiritual train of thought as the content. The truth, that is the expectation of God, which is for us the light and love.

It seemed that the voice of the Forerunner became silent after Herod's party. It was heard, however, in Hades, where he preached the coming of Christ and salvation from death. It remains however, alive in the banquet of faith, and for this reason, we honor him. He teaches us respect for values, the ascetical life, the truth that is Christ. And each time we participate in the Divine Liturgy we oppose the party of "everything is allowed", we commune God and commemorate the true righteousness, that which John the Forerunner served and for which we pray to God.

Fr. Th. M.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021 BEHEADING OF THE HOLY AND GLORIOUS PROPHET, FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN,

Theodora of Thessaloniki, Anastasios the New Martyr of Bulgaria

TONE OF THE WEEK : *First Tone*

EOTHINON : *Nineth Eothinon*

EPISTLE READING : *Acts of the Apostles 13:25-33*

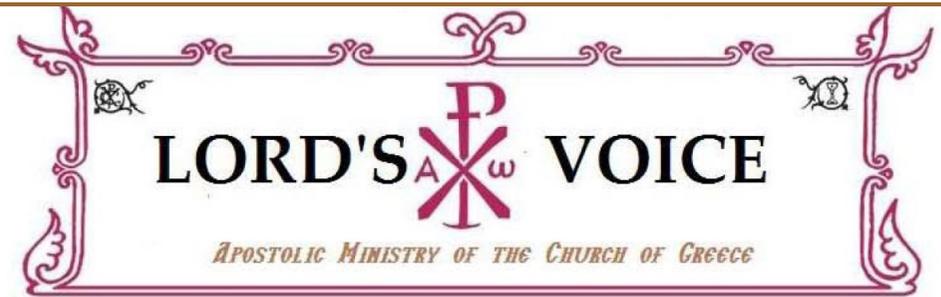
GOSPEL READING : *Mark 6:14-30*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 05 2021 11TH SUNDAY OF

MATTHEW *Holy Prophet Zacharias, Father of the Venerable Forerunner, Elizabeth, Mother of the Forerunner, Urban, Theodore, & Medimnos the Hieromartyrs and the 77 Companions at Nicomedeia*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 9:2-12*

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 18:23-35*



69TH YEAR AUGUST 29 2021 PAMPHLET # 35 (3561)

THE PARTIES OF THE WORLD

The king of Israel in the years of the earthly work of Christ, Herod Agrippas, held a party to celebrate his birthday. At this party, the dancing of Herodias' daughter, his brother's wife with whom Herod was living, became cause for the king, handed over to his passions, to lead to the killing of Saint John the Forerunner. The King did not have a realization of his position, that he had to be a model for people. This meant that he ought to decide based on what is just and moral, and not based on his passions, whatever pleased him. On precisely this, the Saint censured him. He indicated to him publicly that he could not be living together with his brother's wife. And both she, as well as the king, preferred to satisfy their passions and not to conform to the truth.

Authority without God

Herod was proud. He believed that his royal authority gave him the right to be the ruler of the life and death of his

THE EPISTLE READING : ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 13:25-33

IN THOSE DAYS, as John was finishing his course, he said, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie." Brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you that fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets which are read every sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning him. Though they could charge him with nothing deserving death, yet they asked Pilate to have him killed. And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead; and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus.

subjects and, despite the fact that the tradition of the Jewish people ought to have made him respect the commandments of God, the commandments of the Old Testament, one of which was "you shall not commit adultery", nevertheless, he was living as if God does not exist. In opposition to John, who knew who he was, and what his mission was, saying: "who do you think that I am? I am not him whom you are awaiting. He is coming after me and I am not worthy of loosening the sandals from his feet" (Acts 13:25). The worldly ruler did not consider neither God nor people.

A party of rudeness, lewdness and silencing the truth, was Herod's party. It was making a laughing stock of him in the eyes of his people, but also in the eyes of his officers, who ascertained how lightly a king makes serious decisions. Some people may

have feared, seeing justice vanish in the name of authority, a crime happening, and his victim ceasing to live, however, in the history of the world, this party passed as a foul work and its impious protagonist as an example to avoid.

Freedom without limits

The secularized way of life today, presents an analogous form of parties. It calls man to experience the freedom of indulgence, for boundaries and restraints to not exist in the relationships of people, for our ego to be the center of family life and not the, we, in the absence of respect for trustworthiness, offering, sacrifice, love and patience. And all these things, because we have a mistaken sense of who we are. Having set ourselves as little gods, being able to satisfy as much as possible more desires of ours, receiving from everywhere the message that temperance, limits, respect for the other, are not prerequisites for happiness, but only pleasure-loving; we thought that happiness is the "everything is allowed", precisely because we are living without God.

The voice of the Forerunner

The memory of the ancient as well as the contemporary parties, again brings us before the need for us to realize who we are, following the model of Saint John the Forerunner. For us to live the party of the sacredness of the world, of the human person, of human relationships inside the Church. The joy of