

lighting, from what it has today, or will have tomorrow. They only change, is the ways in which the people of each era reap it, use it and transmit it for the public or private benefit.

The Holy Fathers and the great-martyr Marina, although hundreds of years separate us from their historical presence in this world, are proven to be the living lights, that enable us to see the Giver of Light face to face. Our responsibility lies with these lights of the Church, of the body of Christ, to illuminate and warm us, if we wish, but also for us to transmit these lights through our own lives to the coming generations. May our choices always be bright.

Archim. A. A.

**SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2022 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**  
**SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ECUMENICAL**  
**COUNCIL**, *The Holy Great Martyr Marina (Margaret)*, *Veronika &*  
*Speratos the Martyrs, Holy Royal Martyrs of Russia*

**tone of the week** : Fourth Tone

**EOTHINON** : Fifth Eothinon

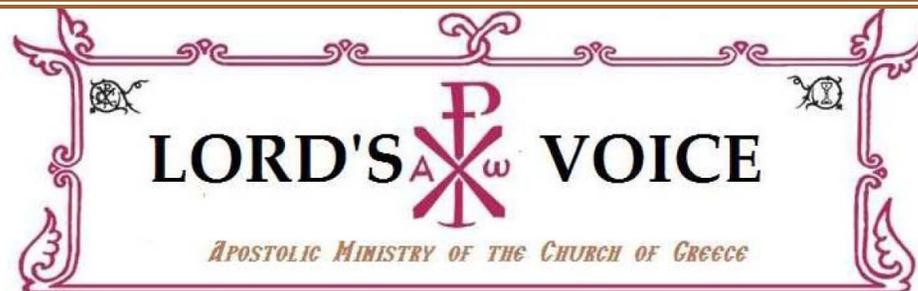
**EPISTLE READING:** *St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15*

**GOSPEL READING :** *Matthew 5: 14- 19*

**SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2022 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF**  
**MATTHEW CHRISTINA THE GREAT MARTYR OF TYRE** ,  
*Athenagorus the Apologist, Boris and Gleb, the Passion-bearers ,*  
*Kapiton, Himenaos and Hermogenes, the Martyrs, Theophilos the New*  
*Martyr of Zakynthos.*

**EPISTLE READING:** *St. Paul's Letter to Romans 12:6-14*

**GOSPEL READING :** *Matthew 9: 1- 8*



70<sup>TH</sup> YEAR JULY 17 2022

PAMPHLET # 29

(3607)

## A HEAVENLY COMPANIONSHIP

Today we have brightly lit resurrectional gathering. The celebration of the Sunday Divine Liturgy is brightened by the all-bright sacred statures of the Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council, in whose chorus, this year coincides with the celebration of the beautiful virgin bride of Christ, the popular and beloved Saint Marina. A resurrectional light is sent down by holy life, asceticism, teaching, dogmas and the decisions of the godbearing ecumenical teachers, but also by the eternal example of the testimony and martyrdom of the holy great-martyr Marina.

The Fourth Ecumenical Council, or, in other words, the Council of Chalcedon, took place in the homonymous suburb of Constantinople, in the year 451 AD. It was convened by the Emperors Marcian and Pulcheria during the time of the Patriarch of Constantinople Anatolios. Its main objective was the condemnation of the heresy of Monophysitism. After a turbulent period, the Synod confirmed the faith of both

## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL READING : MATTHEW 5: 14- 19

The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

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the Symbol of Nicaea as well as that of Nicaea-Constantinople, the establishment of the administrative statutory rule of the Orthodox Church, according to the so-called metropolitan system, and the final resolution of the Christological issue, which for more than eighty years was at the center of the theological controversy in the Roman Empire.

### The invitation of the Saints

About two centuries before, in the years of Emperor Claudius the 2nd, in 270 AD, Saint Marina was born in Antioch of Pisidia. A few days after her birth, her mother died, and her father, Aedesius, who was an idolater, and furthermore, a priest of the idols, entrusted her upbringing to a Christian woman, from whom

Marina was taught about Christ. When she became fifteen years old, she revealed to her father that she is a Christian. He, surprised by what he heard, disinherited her, full of hatred. After some time, the prefect Olymbrios learned about Marina, who ordered her to be arrested and interrogated. Flatteries were followed by horrible tortures, and after that, death by beheading. After that, Saint Marina was granted the martyr's crown, being honored by Christ and the Christians for eighteen centuries now.

### The Great Martyr Marina

Common beneficial lessons both from the sacred tradition and the legacy of the holy Fathers, as well as from those that Saint Marina bequeathed to us throughout the ages, are extracted today from the study of their holy life, but they are preserved in a condensed form by reading today's Gospel passage. In this, we see the people of God, likened to light. That is, just as the light brightens, warms and illuminates people, and it has common positive results for those who approach it, thus also, the light-bearing people of God, transmit the light of Christ, without this transmission being subject to changes due to mileage or time. The worker of the Gospel, the cleric or lay teacher of the Church, or simply the struggling Christian on the way, humbly longs to be enlightened by Christ, and this is enough to enlighten the whole world.

### Our own responsibility

Light has the property of being transmitted without being degraded. Thus, also the word of God, and thus also the living example of people of God. Yesterday, the light had no other value, heating or