

problematic life, to grant him peace that cannot be taken away and permanent joy, either he is saying the truth, or he is saying inadvertent lies, or conscientiously he is fooling. And Christ cannot be accused either of lies, or of being considered a deceiver of the people and a demagogue, nor did He have some personal gain from His preaching, so as to be convicted of selfishness. On the contrary, loudmouthed proclamations, beautiful words and empty talk of the moment, never characterized Him, nor were ascertained in His speech. Even also, whoever fights him with a rage, they might try to prove that He didn't exist, they might be trying to wipe out the truths of His teaching, they might dispute the historical platform and the description of His miracles, but they have never accused Him of irrationality and excesses! And all these things tend to convince us that, when He was saying the things He was saying, He knew what He was saying, He meant it and He was saying it, in order to realize it!

Today, Sunday of Pentecost, if we question what we should reap from the appearance of the Comforter in the historical scene, let us set out from this. That He may enlighten us to realize our thirst for Christ, so as to approach Him to quench us and, finally, for us to live!

Archimandrite I. N

**SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2016 HOLY PENTECOST**, *Thaddeus (Jude) the Apostle & Brother of Our Lord, Holy Martyr Zosima, Our Righteous Father Zenonus, Paisius the Great of Egypt.*

**tone of the week:** *Plagal of the Fourth Tone*

**EOTHINON :** *Eleventh Eothinon*

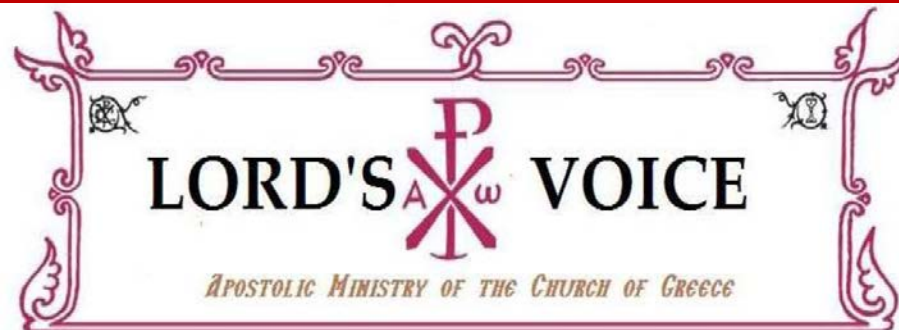
**EPISTLE:** *Acts of the Apostles 2:1 – 11*

**GOSPEL:** *John 7:37-52; 8:12*

**NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016 THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS**  
*David the Righteous of Thessalonika, Appearance of the Icon of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos of Tikhvoin*

**EPISTLE:** *St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2*

**GOSPEL:** *Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30*



64<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

JUNE 19, 2016

PAMPHLET # 25 (3290)

## THIRST FOR LIFE

The feeling of thirst is tragic! The dread of deprivation, the extreme inflammation, the exhaustion... How many times have we not felt these things in the burning heat of summer! And whoever has traveled in the desert, how much more so, have they experienced these things! But also whoever as sailors, have lived the deprivation of water in the sea itself, either due to a shipwreck, or due to his deficiency in their means of transport, how greatly they have been troubled, many times over! And this is among the most insufferable hardships, to be surrounded by water, to be thirsty, and to not be able to drink....

And if these things are tragic in their natural expression and realization, how much worse it is when they occur on a spiritual level. How dreadful it is for a person to be thirsting for the truth and to not be finding it, being overcome by a constant feeling of want, frustrated by whoever, in the meantime, has promised them and has deceived them! The feeling of spiritual deprivation, of dissatisfaction, of the falsification of expectations and hopes, piled together, doesn't simply dismantle, doesn't simply make a person despair, but it completely crushes and destroys a person.

## HOLY PENTECOST

### THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO 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 priest 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.

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#### «If one thirsts, let him come to me and drink»

How much freedom does this cry of Jesus, hide in it! But also how much courage and truth! He sets out with the hypothesis, «if one thirsts». A hypothesis which becomes a presupposition, because that which in reality Christ is saying is, if

someone has the feeling of his spiritual thirst, if someone realizes his spiritual need. And this because there are many people who don't understand how much need they have of Christ, and in their autonomy and self admiration they feel self sufficient. It is very easy for you to choke spiritual thirst in our days and to not feel it, o person, especially when you allow your mind to be attached to earthly things, to be absorbed by daily life and its problems, to be charmed by the intensity of historical happenstance and by whatever event is put forth before you, as important. The time comes when everyone «wakes up» and questions if the way they spent the years of their life was worth it; and they hasten to discover that which makes life worth it, in order to give meaning to it. And then they realize their hunger and their thirst for Christ and they reach the point of discovering Him Himself as well.

It is a fact however, that a primary imperative in our society is, if not the intentional departure, certainly the conscientious neglect of Christ and the spiritual life. And what does Christ do? He respects, and in this throughout time He is proven to be the only one, human freedom and He awaits repentance and return. And on today's great day, this is put forth. He does not obligate the movement towards Him. He wants the turning to His majesty, to be a fruit of certified love and conscientious choice. The result of enlightenment and the first fruits of God and man's cooperation. So for this reason also, He does not pose other criteria. He calls whoever realizes their need, to turn towards Him, without Him distinguishing between genders and races, color, family atmosphere, social origin, financial condition, social level... He accepts everyone, so long as they thirst for Him, in order for Him to quench their thirst!

#### An infallible promise

How does Christ dare to promise, that which He promises. When someone maintains that they are able to quench whoever is thirsty, in other words, to comfort him in a unique and continual manner, to give him a rest from the insufferable toil of the present