

Saint, a well off child, did not hesitate to use his wealth to comfort those in need. He was also distinguished for his love for children, but also adults, while his reputation spread much further than the desert where he was practicing asceticism, resulting in many people from far away cities coming near him to be healed. In his synaxarion it is mentioned how he considered the children more virtuous than the most eminent of philosophers, because Christ blessed them.

How many parents narrate his life to our children? How many children know that they have the Saint as their unquenching protector? Do we have anything else better to offer them maybe? Let us invoke the Saint's intercessions, brethren, in our various trials and especially for the protection of our children. Amen!

Archim. E. T.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 13TH SUNDAY OF LUKE, *Alypius the Stylite of Adrianopolis, Nikon, Stylianos the Monk of Paphlagonia, George the New Martyr of Chios, Innocent of Irkutsk, Akakios of Sinai who is mentioned in The Ladder*

TOPE OF THE WEEK : *Plagal of the Fourth Tone*

EOTHINON : *Third Orthros Gospel*

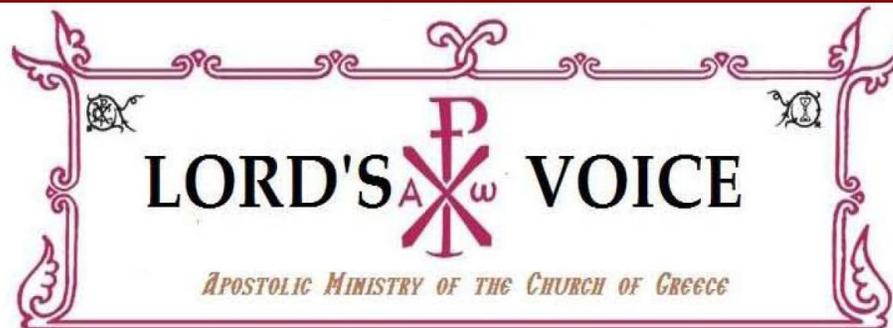
EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul's Letter to Ephesians 4:1-7*

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 18:18-27*

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017 14TH SUNDAY OF LUKE, *The Holy Prophet Sophonias (Zephaniah), Our Righteous Father John, Bishop and Hesychast, Holy Martyrs Agapius and Seleucius Theodore, Archbishop of Alexandria, Angelis the New Martyr, Karpos the Hieromartyr*

EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul's Letter to Ephesians 5:8-19*

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 18:35-43*



65TH YEAR

NOVEMBER 26 2017

PAMPHLET # 48 (3365)

“A PRISONER’ OF JESUS CHRIST

Paul continues, beloved brethren, giving with his words lessons of unity in Christ and in the Church to the Ephesians. Referring to himself as “a prisoner in the Lord”, he doesn't cease charging spiritually this expression also, according to the analysis he makes, aside from his literal reference to his bonds, his imprisonment in Rome, from which he is sending his epistle. Furthermore, his tone is practical and supplicatory, so that the Christians in Ephesus be moved and try to become worthy of their calling.

Humble-mindedness, meekness, longsuffering

Are the three virtues the Apostle mentions, advising the Ephesians. They, of course, have kept company with Paul himself and most of them know that he is truly a bearer of these virtues, being a “read letter” among them. So for this reason also, the good-dispositioned listeners, no matter where they are, and when they hear him speaking, convert.

He who has a publican-like train of thought is humble. He who above his heart mourns his dead self, trying like another Lazarus to resurrect him in Christ. It is he who doesn't have any egotistical image to greatly tyrannize him and to constantly oppress him with the question: “What opinion do the others have about me?”

ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO EPHESIANS 4:1-7

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

He is interested in God's opinion about him. It is he who he choked all his troubling imaginations of grandiosity, in endless currents of tears and prayerful mourning. It is he who with a complete knowledge of his meagerness, feeling like the most sinful person on the earth, the least of all people, lives an incarnated eschatology and with joy and with rejoicing awaits his blessed repose, with a very delicate sense that even for him who feels like the least person, a place in has been prepared for him the bosom of Abraham. The repentance of the humble person is his arrival to God. And it is precisely this encounter of his with God and his amazing love which puts a seal of authenticity on his humility and not humble words and humble pretenses, which arise from scenarios of comparisons with other people, and from whatever we have read about God.

Longing for his encounter with God, the humble person opens up his heart to the infinity of His love and becomes, fitting everyone inside such a heart, a "worldwide father", as we read in the encomiums of many Saints. He becomes a worldwide personality, of ecumenical dimensions. The meekness and longsuffering, which Paul mentions, are logical outpourings in the humble person's behavior. Both of these bear in a seed, humility,

but they also strengthen it, because the virtues are contained in each other, as we say in theological language, in other words, the one depicts and refers, but also strengthens the other one. Thus the humble person is, as a rule, both meek and longsuffering. The Lord characterized His own self meek and humble, whereas we also in the church many times in the exclamations glorify His longsuffering.

Unity, a bond of peace

Paul insists: that we unite with each other in the Church, "in one spirit and in the same spirit" . Our union is complete, because it is "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". And from this union of ours, the spirit of peace inundates us. The bond of peace which the apostle mentions, is expressed with the gifts of the Spirit, which flows through the body of the believers. These gifts are love, longsuffering, faith, meekness, temperance, helping one another, self denial, encouragement, self sacrifice, longing for prayer, fasting, and vigil, hunger and thirst for the liturgical life, in which all these gifts are liturgized, as they are deposited in the table of life and "gain interest" they multiply, the study of the divine words and authoring, consolation, loving-caring, charity and many others. Thus, the Holy Spirit, "edifies the whole institution of the Church" with this life giving breaths.

Saint Stylianos one more "prisoner in the Lord"

Today our Church also honors Saint Stylianos of Paphlagonia. His parents were correct models who led him to Christ, something very frequent in the lives of the Saints and which makes us wonder as regards what conduct we are handing down to our children today, in the age of dreadful crisis. The