

whoever believes in the name of Christ, and diligently hears the calling of the precious Forerunner? Only the lack of trust in God, concerning the patristic providence about which Paul speaks, crying out with a loud voice, is able to allow such tares to be cultivated and sprout in the field of our heart. "But..." we will say, "the Internet, the old man, the old lady" ... The very great Forerunner answers us, humbling himself, and calls us to return to Christ who is perfect love, "which casts out fear". We are not able to foresee the winds, the storms, the extreme weather phenomena which the new year will bring. We are able, however, with the garment of repentance and the overcoat of love and our faith in Christ, to set out on the journey, certain that "if God is with us, no one can be against us".

Fr. Th. M.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 2022 SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY ,

Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Sylvester, Pope of Rome , Cosmas, Archbishop of Constantinople, Juliana the Righteous , Theagenes the Hieromartyr, Bishop of Parios, Theopemptos, Theodota, the Mother of the Holy Anargyroi, Righteous Mark the Deaf, Basil the Martyr of Ankyra, Sergios, Theopistos the Martyr, George the New Martyr of Georgia, Nilos the Sanctified, Sylvester of the Kiev Caves

tone of the week : *Third Tone*

EOTHINON : *Sixth Eothinon*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's 2nd Letter to Timothy 4:5-8*

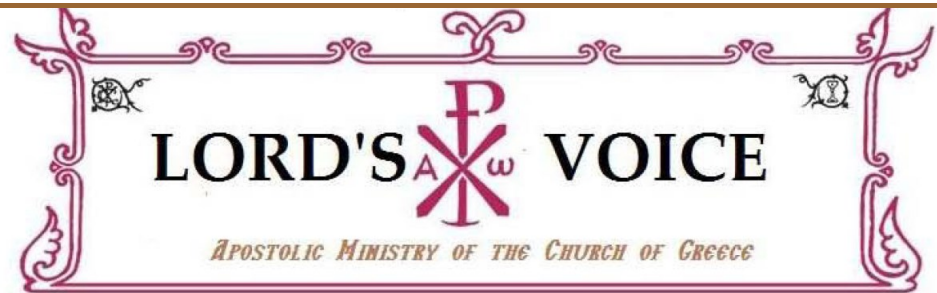
GOSPEL READING : *Mark 1:1-8.*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9 2022 SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY ,

Polyeuctus the Martyr of Melitene in Armenia , Eustratios the Wonderworker , Peter, Bishop of Sebaste, brother of Basil the Great and Gregory of Nyssa , Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ ,Philip, Metropolitan of Moscow

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's letter to Ephesians 4:7-13*

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 4:12-17*



70TH YEAR JANUARY 2 2022 PAMPHLET # 01 (3579)

THE LIGHT BEFORE THE LIGHTS

Sunday before the Lights and simultaneously the first Sunday of the new year is today, and we heard during the Divine Liturgy, a small excerpt from the beginning of the sacred Gospel of the Evangelist Mark being read. A preparatory and forerunning excerpt for the reception of the coming great feast of the Lord of holy Theophany, with the precious Forerunner as the protagonist, that great Biblical personality, the prophet and teacher, the ascetic and martyr, the friend and relative of the Lord, whose presence and mission, the prophets had previously proclaimed.

The invitation of the precious Forerunner

Our times, times full of empty words and without substance, which in a pompous manner project the fake and temporal things and - as such – end up incapable of convincing, they have much to be taught about discretion, directness, faith and the confession of the preaching of the precious Forerunner, who at every moment of his holy life, always selected

EPISTLE READING : ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO TIMOTHY 4:5-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

experientially the action "unto stepping into theoria". Even though people worthily and justly rendered great honor to his person, he, in every circumstance, would confess, but also throughout the ages confesses, that He is coming after me, of Whom I am not worthy to bow down and loosen, as a servant, the strap of His sandals.

It is he concerning whom Christ Himself, with His infallible mouth, had assured that no greater man in spiritual worth has been born of a woman, greater than the precious Forerunner

He is the Prophet who fervently desires that people deal with him as if he does not exist, orienting their attention and gaze at Christ. So, he is preaching today from the pulpit of every Orthodox church to the ends of the universe. The true person of God who already from the womb of his elderly mother, Elizabeth, had preached and worshiped the Godhead of Christ. He is welcoming us today evangelically, he who stands at the borderline of the New and the Old Testament, indicating at the dawn of the saving year 2022 the path, illuminating our lives and inviting us again, with the forerunning suggestion of the Church, in other words, repentance, "which makes everything new".

The miracle in the Church

No healing from a physical and spiritual illness, no restoration in the wounded health of man, even the resurrection itself of a dead person, comprises a miracle for the Church, as repentance, the changing, in other words, of our orientation, of our thought, and of our mind, their anabaptism in the sweet name of Jesus Christ, who is both yesterday and today is the same and remains "unchanging" the path, the truth and life. Repentance comprises joy for the holy angels, a celebration for heaven, mourning and wailing and for the demons.

With anxiety and agony, with doubts and quandaries, with fear in our hearts for all that it will reveal to us, we timidly step into the new year which opens up before us. Are these, I wonder, the emotions which befit the hearts of