

“God wants from us, our disposition, our good will, which will we demonstrate merely with our little honorable struggle, and the consciousness of our sinfulness. He gives everything else. Muscles are not necessary in the spiritual life. We should struggle humbly, be asking for God's mercy and be grateful to Him for everything. He who abandons himself into the hands of God, without any plan of his own plan, passes into God's plan. The more a person is hooked onto himself, he stays behind; he does not advance spiritually, because he hinders God's mercy. In order to succeed, he needs a lot of trust in God. clean of wounds and all of the priests testify to their healing. The lepers all return back to life healthy and happy.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 , 2024. 12TH SUNDAY OF LUKE ,**  
*Maximus the Confessor , Martyrs Neophytos, Agnes, Patroclus, Maximus the Greek and Eugene of Trebizond, Neophytos the Martyr of Nicaea*

**EPISTLE READING :** *St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11*

**GOSPEL READING :** *Matthew 17:12-19*

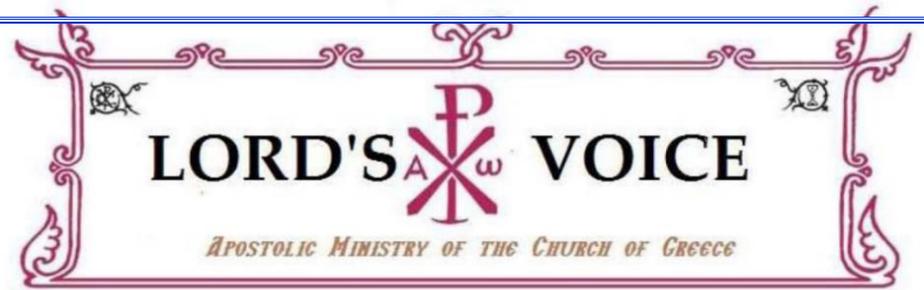
**TONE OF THE WEEK :** *Plagal Fourth Tone*

**ETHINON :** *Eleventh Eothinon*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 , 2024. 15TH SUNDAY OF LUKE**  
*Ephraim the Syrian, Isaac the Syrian, Bishop of Ninevah, James the Righteous, Palladios the Hermit of Antioch, Theodosius of Totma , Grace the Martyr*

**EPISTLE READING :** *St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15*

**GOSPEL READING :** *Luke 19:1-10*



72<sup>ST</sup> YEAR JANUARY 21 2024 PAMPHLET #03 (3686)

## LORD JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON US!

What a cruel sight to see ten sick lepers together? A body full of wounds, which smell and flow with fluids, something that led, at that time, to a tragic, painful and slow death. The Mosaic Law forbade lepers to come into contact with healthy people, because it considered them spiritually impure. They lived outside the cities and villages, forgotten and socially despised. Furthermore, in the book of Leviticus it is written that they had to wear torn clothes, have their heads uncovered and their mouths covered. They took off the cover only when a person approached them and they had to shout "unclean". They lived as if they were dead.

## Christ coming to us

In today's gospel passage, Christ guides His steps close to them and gives them the unique opportunity to be healed. They had heard about Him and His healings, for this reason, and with all the strength they had, they were shouting to him: "Jesus overseer, have mercy on us". The "Overseer" is the one who supervises, who guides something, that is, more than a teacher. They did not call him "Lord", because they did not know the power and the authority that he had. However, they encountered it when they were far away and He told them to go to the priests and they will be healed. Christ could have with a simple word of his or even with a touch of his healed them. He didn't, and he had a reason for it.

### **GOSPEL READING : LUKE 17:12-19)**

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

---

He did not want to cancel what the Mosaic law said about lepers. According to the law, the priests were the ones who recognized the disease of leprosy and drove the patients to desert areas. Therefore, in this way, Christ sends the lepers, who are healed on the way, to the priests and they see their healing with their eyes, so that they could also believe in Christ. They see them clean of wounds and all of the priests testify to their healing. The lepers all return back to life healthy and happy.

### **Thankfulness and gratitude to God**

However, let us now see how they dealt with their benefactor. Only one turned to Christ to thank Him. The others, from the joy of their healing, forgot Him. One ran back, and not only thanked Him with his word, but fell at His feet and worshiped Him with a heart full of gratitude and joy.

When our heart is full of gratitude to God, then our whole life changes and is filled with peace and joy. Ingratitude is a sin. It is the hardness of the heart that does not allow it to see the face of God and man.

Let us reflect on the attitude of the nine lepers. Let's learn to live from the gratitude of the one. Christ is the source of all of the goods in our life. He gave us talents, without us doing anything. That is why the Apostle Paul confesses: "I have nothing and I own everything." Each of us can be so rich even in absolute poverty. Rich in gratitude for the love, the power, and the glory that our Christ gives us. Let us reflect and offer to God our love and our desire to live with Him, out of gratitude that He brought us to life and was crucified for us.

Archim. E. L

### **DIVINE PROVIDENCE**

"We must entrust everything to divine providence, because only then are we saved both from anxiety and from distress and from all evils. Because, when one knows and believes that he has God who cares for him, for what reason should he get upset?

However, in order to entrust everything to divine providence, one must first clean himself of every worldly care, and then wait for divine providence to act. Because, if someone e.g. strives to gain money, so that he has it for difficult times, or so that he does not lack anything, then he bases his hope in money and not on God. Therefore, he must first stop loving money and basing his hope on it, and then to base his hope on God; both together do not happen. I'm not saying that we not use money, but one should not put one's hope on it, and should not give his heart to it".

"Elder, what does God want from us?"