

It remains to him to live the rest of his life illumined by the light of his encounter with Christ, not allowing any darkness to lessen this light.

As we also yield daily to various sinful and problematic choices, we could render the fact to a type of spiritual blindness. Our participation in the sacred mysteries of the Church offers all of us the capability to regain sight and to be healed with the saving intervention of Christ in our life.

Archim. A. A.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 23 2022 14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE,**

Hieromartyr Clement Bishop of Ancyra, *Agathangelus the Martyr*, *Righteous Father Dionysius of Olympus*

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

**EOTHINON** : *Nineth Eothinon*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's First letter to Timothy 1:15-17*

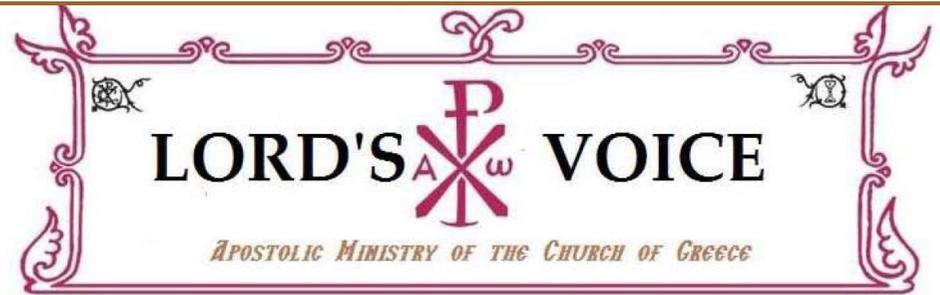
**GOSPEL READING** : *Luke 18:35-43*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 2022 SYNAXIS OF THE THREE HIERARCHS:**

*Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, & John Chrysostom*, *Hippolytos, Pope of Rome, Athanasia the Martyr & her 3 daughters*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's letter to Hebrews 13:7-16*

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



**70<sup>TH</sup> YEAR JANUARY 23 2022 PAMPHLET # 04 (3582)**

### GOD VISITS MAN

Christ's moving meeting with a blind man, is the topic of today's gospel passage, which, for this year, is also the last of this series of passages of the holy glorious apostle and evangelist Luke.

We are informed, related to an unfortunate man, who had, on the one hand, the fate to be born healthy, with the gift of vision offering him the capability of enjoying the world, creation, the beauty of nature, and the faces of his fellow men, and to thus better understand their joy and affliction, but also giving him the opportunity to partake in these, in a brother loving and therapeutic way.

However, what remains to him, henceforth, is merely the dim recollection of fellow men, experiences, that appeared to him through the blessed sense of vision. This happened because this man, for a certain reason, which is not mentioned in the sacred Gospel, at some point became blind. He lost his light, and he was sunk into an involuntary darkness. This fact isolated him socially and had psychological consequences on his being.

### **GOSPEL READING : *LUKE 18:35-43* .**

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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### **Spiritual vision**

Despite his weakness, however, the blind man of the passage perceives the presence of the Savior Christ in the land of his dwelling: "when he heard the noise of the people that were passing by, he asked what this must be, that he was hearing, while they announced to him that Jesus the Nazarene was passing by there, and then he cried out with a loud voice saying: "Jesus, descendant of David, have mercy on me". So, behold that the blindness of his natural eyes did not become an obstacle for him to confess the name of Christ, to recognize Him as a descendant of David, and as preached by the Prophets of the Old Testament. For one more time, a humble and weak person, invalid and sick, probably of a deficient education and training, almost cast aside

because of the harsh givens of that time, becomes a preacher of the godhead of Christ, and asks Him to have mercy on him. That happens to him which the hard hearted and very educated rulers of Israel, who had an excellent functioning of all their senses, stubbornly refused to happen within them. What, in other words? To accept the mercy of God in their life, from God himself, who out of love descended to the earth in order to offer it to them!

### **Physical and spiritual blindness**

And in conclusion, from the study of today's gospel passage we see two types of conditions being formulated, of physical and spiritual health, each one of these with two sides. The first has to do with the health of the body. When the body is flourishing, all of man's senses function, without, however, it being a given that he is able to see the world and matters "as they are". When again, the body's health ceases being good, then the person suffers and hurts, without it again being a given that his illness deprives him of the sensitivity, the perception and the correct judgment about everything that is happening around him. How many saints with an innumerable multitude of illnesses always remained firm in their duty and ministry, furthermore, giving important help to a multitude of healthy people who hasten to their shelter?

Christ at the end of today's gospel passage, abundantly grants the restoration of health to the tortured fellow. He again gives him his light. In a miraculous manner He makes him capable to regain sight.