

also of the righteous of the Old Testament. The sufferings of the righteous of the Old Testament, which Paul describes in the passage, are also common to the Saints of the Church, as we are taught from their lives. All Saints, with the power of faith, overcame all the intervening obstacles, which aimed at interrupting their true relationship with God, which also was manifested as a true relationship with their fellow man. The Saints accepted everything as a gift and charism from God, and for this reason, they offered back their love and faith to the Gift-giving Lord.

By faith they express their personal love, through which they share in the pain, affliction and joy of other people. With their prayer, they radiate God's Grace and help each person, the Church, and the entire Universe.

Archim. N.K

SUNDAY, JUNE 11 2023 SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

Bartholomew the Holy Apostle, Barnabas the Holy Apostle, Revelation of the Hymn Axion Estin to a monk on Mt. Athos by the Archangel Gabriel, Alexander and Antonina the Martyrs, Timothy, Bishop of Proussa, Theophanes & Pansemne of Antioch, Our Holy Father Gregory, Bishop of Assos, The Holy Martyrs of China

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

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

TONE OF THE WEEK : *Plagal Fourth Tone*

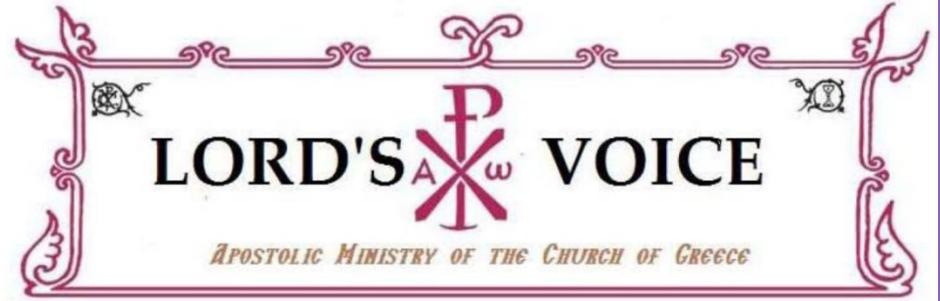
EOTHINON : *First Eothinon*

SUNDAY, JUNE 18 2023 2ND SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

Leontius, Hypatius, & Theodulus the Martyrs of Syria, Leontios the Myrrh-Streamer of Argos, Aitherios the Martyr of Nicomedia.

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 2:10-16*

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 4:18-23*



71ST YEAR JUNE 11 2023 PAMPHLET # 24 (3654)

THE ARMY OF ALL SAINTS

After the feast of Pentecost, the Church appointed that All Saints be celebrated. And this, since the Saints, who became sanctified, because they were united with Christ, were and are the continuation of Pentecost; the sweet fruit of the descent of the Holy Spirit, and the appearance of the Church as the Body of Christ, and the communion of theosis. That's why the Church honors them, and we faithful ask for their intercessions to the God. Because of their martyrdom, love, asceticism, their Orthodoxy and Orthodox action, they have great boldness before God. They are the older brothers, the friends, the source of inspiration for every believer; those who sought and found the light and truth of God, as a revelation of the Kingdom of God, and as an entirely new way of life. A prophetic, apostolic, martyrial life; a life that is not wiped out by sin and death, but is experienced as a contest of relationship and as a partaking in the glory of Christ; that is, in His Utter Humility, Cross and Resurrection; His Kingdom, of which there shall be no end."

**THE SUNDAY EPISTLE ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE
HEBREWS 11:33-40; 12:1-2**

Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Holiness in the Old Testament

The Epistle reading of today's Sunday, comes from the Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews (ch. 11, vs. 33- 40 and 12, vs. 1-2). Paul, in the said chapter, refers to all those sacred persons of the Old Testament who by their faith contributed to the realization of people's salvation in Christ. That is why he emphasizes, on behalf of the believers now, of the New Testament, the imitation of the fervent faith of the people of the Old Testament. The faith of these people, means absolute existential trust in God's promises, with the first one being that of

the coming of the Messiah. Because they believe in God, God's promises become a bridge that connects them with the person of God.

The conclusion is drawn from the Holy Scripture, that when God makes a promise, He simultaneously offers His infinite love to man, so that through this communion of love, the believer foretastes the fulfillment of God's promises from the present. That's why the faith also of the sacred persons of the Old Testament, in a reductive way, interpreted various historical events described in it, aiming at the final reference to the expected Messiah and Savior of world. In this sense, the amazing homily of Saint Gregory the Theologian is also understood, who points out that "there is a mystical and ineffable very likely reason, for me, of course, and for all the friends of God, that none of those who were perfected before Christ, achieved it without faith in Christ. That is, the Word (the Son of God) appeared later on, at the appointed time, He had also become known earlier on, to those who were pure in mind, as becomes evident from those who have been honored before His appearing" (Homily 11, on the Maccabees, 1). Here we see reference being made to the presence and energy of the incarnate Word in the Old Testament, Who in the New Testament appears as the incarnate Word, as Christ Jesus.

The faith of the Saints

Therefore, the relationship of our Epistle passage to the content of today's feast is obvious. Since among All Saints, the prophets, the righteous and the forefathers of the Old Testament are included, who lived, as we said, with the expectation of the fulfillment of God's promises.

Thus, faith in the true God, was the fundamental characteristic, not only of the Saints of the New Testament, but