



St. Sozon was born in Lyconia. He was a shepherd. In the city of Cilician Pompeiopolis, there was a certain golden idol which the pagans worshiped. Sozon entered the pagan temple and broke the arm off the golden idol. He crumbled it into bits and distributed it to the poor. For this act he suffered martyrdom in the year 304

First Reading: (1 Cor 5:1-8) It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and of a kind that is not found even among pagans; for a man is living with his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body I am present in spirit, and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment in the name of the Lord Jesus on the man who has done such a thing. When you are assembled, and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and

evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Ps 5:5-7, 12

R./ Lead me, Lord, in your justice.

Gospel: (Lk 6:6-11) On a Sabbath day, when Jesus entered the synagogue and taught, a man was there whose right hand was withered. And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come and stand here." And he rose and stood there. And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?" And he looked around on them all, and said to him, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored. But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Reflection: I feel like clapping whenever I hear this Gospel passage is read and priest says, this is the Gospel of the Lord. Wow, really "good news" stuff. But such stuff is bound to arouse both the groups; those who clap and those "filled with fury". **The experience of God with us and his kindness should inspire us to continue to be God's living presence in the world** and not so much preoccupied with "those filled with fury." Often times good Christians, even church authorities, are so preoccupied with people whom they think are "filled with fury," and consequently suppress their deeds of mercy.