

MELKITE RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

Parents: Blessed ✠ is our God at all times, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Response: Amen.

Parents: Glory to You, our God, glory to You. Heavenly King, Consoler, Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, the Treasury of blessings and the Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

Children: Holy ✠ God! Holy Mighty One! Holy Immortal One! Have mercy on us! *(Three times w/ metany)*

Glory be to the Father ✠ and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us! Lord, forgive us our sins! Master, pardon our transgressions! Holy One, look upon us and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy! *(Three times)*

Glory be to the Father ✠ and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION - TONE 6

The angelic powers were around Your tomb, and the guards became as dead,
and Mary stood at the tomb, seeking Your spotless body;
Then You despoiled Hades without being tried by it,
and You met the Virgin, O Bestower of life.
O Lord, who rose from the dead, glory to You!

EPISTLE: 2:4 - 10

Brethren, God, who is rich in mercy, by reason of his very great love with which he has loved us even when we were dead by reason of our sins, brought us to life together with Christ, and you have been saved by grace. [God] raised us up together, and enthroned us together in heaven in Christ Jesus, so that he might show in future ages the overflowing riches of his grace, through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith: and that, not on your own, for it is God's gift, and not the result of work which might have been a pretext for anyone to boast. For we are his workmanship, we who were created in Christ Jesus through good works which God has pre-planned so that we could walk in them. ¹

GOSPEL: LUKE 16:19-31

At that time, the Lord told this parable; "there was certain rich man who used to clothe himself in purple and fine linen, and who feasted every day in splendid fashion. And there was certain poor man, named Lazarus, who lay at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be filled with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores.

And it came to pass that the poor man died and was borne away by the angels into Abraham's bosom; but the rich man also died and was buried in hell. And lifting up his eyes, being in torments, he saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham have pity on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame.'

But Abraham said to him, 'Son, remember you in your lifetime have received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now here he is comforted whereas you are tormented. And besides all that, between us and you a great gulf is fixed, so that those who wish to pass over from this side to you cannot, and they cannot cross from your side to us.'

And he said, 'Then, father, I pray you to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they too come into this place of torments.'

And Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' But he answered, 'No father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not believe even if someone rises from the dead.'" ²

¹ Epistle Book, English (Apostolos): Bishop Joseph Raya, Alleluia Press, 1980

² Gospel Book, English: Bishop Joseph Raya, Alleluia Press, 1978

CATECHETICAL SUMMARY

In the Gospel today we are reminded (and warned) that the way we live in this life will have everything to do with how we live in the next. While some may use this Gospel to condemn money or riches in general, this is a misuse of the text. The Gospel reminds us that it is not the **“good things”** which are evil but what we do with what we have that matters. While the “rich man” was blessed to have many good things, he refused to share these blessings with those around him.

In the end it is Lazarus who is remembered by name and whose virtue is proclaimed in the Church today while the “rich man” remains nameless. He who made a name for himself on this earth is forgotten by the very ones he wanted to impress while the one who was counted lower than the dogs on this earth is elevated today by public proclamation in every church throughout the world.

PRACTICAL QUESTIONS:

1. What was so evil about the rich man's life that he was sent to hell?
2. What was so virtuous about Lazarus' life that we gained life eternal?
3. If eternal life is the life of God, what kind of life must we live if we hope to live forever?
4. How does the life of Lazarus conform to God's life?

PASSAGE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION:

Tobit 4:7 “Do not turn your face away from any poor man, and the face of God will not be turned away from you.”