

MELKITE RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH THE SECOND 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.

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION - TONE 1

After the stone was sealed by the Jews
and the while the soldiers were watching Your spotless body,
You rose, O Savior, on the third day, giving life to the world.
Wherefore, the heavenly powers cried out to you, O Giver of life:
"Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your kingdom!
Glory to Your economy, O You who alone are the lover of mankind!"

GOSPEL: LUKE 6:31-36

The Lord said, "Even as you wish men to do to you, so also do you to them. And if you love those who love you, what merit have you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what merit have you? For even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive in return, what merit have you? For even sinners lend to sinners that they may get back as much in return. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, not hoping for any return, and your reward shall be great, and you shall be children of the Most High, for He is kind towards the ungrateful and evil. Be merciful, therefore, even as your Father is merciful."

CATECHETICAL SUMMARY

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us with a very personal question about motives. In every moral action of a human being there is a purpose, a motive, which "motivates" us to act. Sadly, in most instances, that motivation is for personal gain. I give someone a loan so as to hope for more in return. I love another because I was first loved by them. I do good to another because the other is doing good to me. I forgive another only if they first ask for forgiveness from me. Such is the world's approach to life – to live my life for personal advancement, and for personal gain.

Today Jesus challenges us to rise above this common approach to our moral actions, by inviting us to become "children of the Most High" and thereby beginning to live and act according to God's way of acting. It is Jesus who is Love Incarnate, and because he is God from all eternity, he needs nothing, he lacks nothing. There is nothing that God's creation can give him that he does not already possess. Hidden within this reality and revelation of the perfect nature of God is a simple but beautifully related truth: that God's love is totally self-less. While the world would like us to believe that we will obtain happiness and fulfillment by the acquisition of things, the Lord challenges this thinking by turning it on its head, and showing us that we—made in the image and likeness of God—will only discover fulfillment and happiness when we learn to give of ourselves for the sake of others. True wealth is not the acquisition of things, but the acquisition of God's way of life.