

MELKITE RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

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 8

You descended from on high, O compassionate One;
and consented to burial for three days that You might free us from suffering.
O Lord, our life and our resurrection, glory to You!

EPISTLE: HEBREWS 11:33 - 12:2

Brethren, all of the saints by faith conquered kingdoms, wrought justice, obtained the fulfillment of promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, recovered strength from weakness, became valiant in battle, routed foreign armies. Women had their dead returned to them through resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to yield for their release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others again suffered mockery and beatings, even chains and jailings. They were stoned, they were cut to pieces, they were put to the test, they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, anguished, afflicted (of whom the world was not worthy) wandering in deserts, mountains, caverns and holes in the ground.

And all of these, in spite of the positive witnessing of faith, failed to receive what was promised, for God was keeping something better in store for us, so that they were not to reach their final perfection without us. And so, having such a cloud of witnesses over us, let us get rid of every burden, and of the sin entangling us, and run with endurance to the fight proposed to us, contemplating the author and final end of faith, Jesus.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 10:32 - 38, 19:27 - 30

The Lord said to His disciples, "Everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before My Father in heaven. But whoever disowns Me before men, I in turn will disown before My Father in heaven. Anyone who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and anyone who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and anyone who does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me."

Then Peter addressed him saying, "Behold, we have left all and followed You; what then shall we have?" And Jesus said to them, "Amen I say to you that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man shall sit on the throne of His glory, shall also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left house, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall possess life everlasting. But many who are first now will be last, and many who are last now will be first."

The Sunday following Pentecost is the Sunday of All Saints, celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all those who have faith. The Holy Spirit is the life of God, and faith is the total giving of ourselves to the One who has shared His life with us. When this communion between man and God takes place in the hearts of believers, we are transformed, divinized, and made children of God, sharing a common nature and life with our Heavenly Father. Thus, we attribute to believers an attribute proper to God: holiness. To be a "saint" is to be one who is in communion with God, one who shares in the life of God. While many think of saints as those who have died and, having been confirmed by

miracles, are now declared to live with God, this is only half of the story. No one **becomes** a saint after death! Either a person lives God's life now, and is therefore a living saint, or they will surely die in their sins.

Challenge Questions:

1. What is faith?
2. What is a saint?
3. Am I a saint?
4. According to the final sentence of the Epistle, what must I do to be a saint?