

MELKITE RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

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: 1 TIMOTHY 4:9 - 15

My son Timothy, this saying is true and worthy of full acceptance: for we work and are reviled for this reason, that we hope in the living God who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers. Command and teach these things.

Let no man despise the fact that you are young, but be an example to the faithful by what you say and do, by love, faith, spirituality and chastity. Until I come, be diligent in reading, exhorting and teaching. Do not neglect the grace that is in you, granted to you as a speaker for God through the laying on of the hands of the priesthood. Meditate on these things, give yourself entirely to them, so that your progress may be evident to all.

GOSPEL: LUKE 19:1 - 10

At that time as Jesus was passing through Jericho, behold there was a man named Zacchaeus; and he was a leading publican, and he was rich. And he was trying to see Jesus, to find out who he was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature.

So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay in your house today."

And he made haste and came down, and welcomed him joyfully. And upon seeing it, all began to murmur, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."

But Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, I give one-half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."

Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he, too, is the son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

CATECHETICAL SUMMARY

Today the Church, through the proclamation of the Gospel, reminds us that the Lord sees and values things in a way that the world cannot understand. Oftentimes, what the world sees as strength is a pitfall for those who seek the Lord; and what the world sees as weakness is an opportunity for spiritual growth.

Zacchaeus, "small of stature" and despised by the Jews becomes the one who sees the Lord and welcomes him into his home. Why? The Fathers of the Church tell us that Zacchaeus was able to see the Lord, not because of the Sycamore tree, but because he set aside the self-righteousness of the world and the stature of honor and worldly dignity.

By becoming "small" and humble of heart, by opening his eyes to the Lord's vision, Zacchaeus was able to rise above those around him to behold the Lord and welcome him

into his home. By going to Zacchaeus' house, Jesus confirmed for all that Zacchaeus had already made a home for the Lord in his heart.

Throughout the Gospel, those who are apparently weak become strong, the blind become able to see, the paralytics walk again, and this strength and healing is found in one thing: that the Lord has made himself present within them, that he comes in to "our house," and for that we must "make haste" to come down to meet him.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

1. How should a Christian judge himself differently than the world judges him?
2. Why was Zacchaeus' willingness to climb up the tree a way in which we can see the humility of his heart?
3. Why did those around Zacchaeus despise his wealth while Jesus saw it as an opportunity for his salvation?