

MELKITE RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE WOMAN

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 3

Let all in heaven rejoice and all on earth be glad,
for the Lord has exerted power with His arm:
By death He has trampled upon Death
and has become the firstborn from the dead.
He has delivered us from the bosom of Hades
and has granted to the world great mercy.

EPISTLE: HEBREWS 13:7 – 16*
(FOR THE FEAST OF THE THREE HIERARCHS)

Brethren, remember your superiors who spoke to you the word of God. Consider how they ended their lives, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes, and forever. Do not be led away by various and strange doctrines. For it is good to make the heart steadfast by grace, not by foods, in which those who walked found no profit.

We have an altar, from which they have no right to eat who serve the tabernacle (Cf. Lv.16:17). For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the Holies by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. And so Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people by his blood, suffered outside the gate.

Let us therefore go forth to him outside the camp, hearing his reproach; for here we have no permanent city, hut we seek for the city that is to come. Through him, therefore, let us offer up a sacrifice of praise always to God, that is, fruit of lips praising his name. And do not forget kindness and love, for by such sacrifices God's favor is obtained.

EPISTLE: 2 CORINTHIANS 6:16 - 7:1
(FOR THE SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE WOMAN)

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God, as God says, I will be their God and they shall be my people. Wherefore, come out from among them, be separated, says the Lord, and touch not an unclean thing; and I will welcome you in, and will be a Father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord almighty. Having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of the body and of the spirit, perfecting sanctity in the fear of God.

GOSPEL: LUKE 19:1 - 10

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not say a word in answer to her.

His disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us."

He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

But the woman came and did him homage, saying, "Lord, help me."

He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs."

She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters."

Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that hour.

CATECHETICAL SUMMARY

- * *The catechetical summary refers to the usual Epistle for the Sunday of the Canaanite Woman, 2 Corinthians 6:16 – 7:1. However because the Feast of the Three Hierarchs falls on Sunday, the Epistle proclaimed on Sunday will be for that feast, Hebrews 13:7 - 16. Both epistles have been included for you.*

Today the Church proclaims to her children two biblical texts which, at first glance, seem to conflict. First, Saint Paul, quoting the Old Testament (Lv 26: 11.2), instructs God's people to "come out" from among the unbelievers and "be separated." Then, in the Gospel proclamation we learn of Jesus' withdrawal from his own people, and journey into a foreign land where he encounters a woman who is, according to the law, unclean. How are we to reconcile these two texts?

While in the Old Testament God's people were called to physically separate themselves from "unclean" peoples in order to avoid the influence of paganism, in the New Testament Jesus teaches us where true holiness is found. The "separation" which Saint Paul calls for in the Epistle is not an ethnic or regional one (cf. Gal 3:28), but rather a spiritual one – a separation from sin. And this separation from sin happens when we, like the Canaanite woman, proclaim Jesus as our "Lord" and cry out to him "help me." Through faith in the Lord we are united to him, and become temples of the Holy Spirit.

No longer will the Father be worshiped in a temple made of dead stones, either in Jerusalem or in any other city built by men (Jn 4:21), but in the hearts of those who profess Jesus as King and Lord.

Challenge Questions:

1. How should we, as Christians, "separate" ourselves?
2. What is faith?
3. How are we "Temples of the Living God?"