

**MELKITE RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH
THIRD 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 and has granted to the world great mercy!"

EPISTLE: 1 CORINTHIANS 4:9-16

Brethren, I think God has set forth us the apostles last of all, as men doomed to death, so that we would become a spectacle to the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, but we are without honor! To this very hour, we hunger and thirst, and we are naked and buffeted and have no fixed home. And we labor, working with our own hands. We are reviled and we bless, we are persecuted and we bear with it, we are maligned and we console; we have become as the refuse of this world, the scum of all until this present time. I write these things, not to put you to shame, but to admonish you as my dearest children. For although you have ten thousand tutors in Christ, you have not many fathers. Therefore, I beg you, be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.¹

GOSPEL: LUKE 7:11 - 16

At that time it came to pass that Jesus went to a town called Naim; and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. And as he drew near the gate of the town, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large gathering from the town was with her. And the Lord, seeing her, had compassion on her, and said to her, "Do not weep." And he went up and touched the stretcher; and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to thee, arise." And he who was dead, sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. But fear seized upon all, and they began to glorify God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us." and "God has visited his people."²

CATECHETICAL SUMMARY

Today the Church proclaims the inspirational story of the resurrection of the dead son, the only son, of the widow of Naim. It is one of Jesus' chief miracles. In the person of the widow we can see the most destitute, the most hopeless of people. In those days, a widow was left often times with no means of financial security – no means to provide the basic necessities of life. No means, that is, unless there is left to her a son who can look out for her and offer her protection.

Sadly, this widowed woman is the wife of a dead man and now the mother of a dead son – truly, she was bereft of hope. She was indeed in a hopeless state – a state of real need. And as Jesus comes to this woman to restore her dead son to life, the woman receives not only her son but also the possibility of life for herself. It was for this reason, to restore life to a world in the stronghold of death, that Jesus was born of the Theotokos. It is for this reason, to give life back to mankind, that he was crucified, was buried and on the third day rose again.

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

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

The Church challenges us today to become a people formed in the image and likeness of Christ – a people whose sole identity is to give our life that others might live. Every aspect of our life, then, must be about giving of ourselves to those around us. And through giving of ourselves we proclaim in our actions the Good News of Jesus Christ.

PRACTICAL CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

1. What are the different kinds of “needs” that people have?
2. Is there a way to be dead in our heart and yet alive in our body? If so, how can we become more like Jesus to those who are spiritually dead?
3. What are some practical ways in which we can help others who are in need?