

MELKITE RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH TWELFTH 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. Amen.

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!"

EPISTLE: ACTS 12:1 - 11

In those days King Herod set hands on certain members of the Church to do them harm. He had James, the brother of John, put to death by the sword.

And seeing that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to have Peter arrested also (for it was the days of Unleavened Bread). After his arrest, he had him thrown into jail, and he set up four squads of four soldiers each to guard him, intending to bring him before the people after the Passover. And while Peter was kept in the jail, constant prayer was being made to God in his behalf.

Now, when Herod was about to bring him forth that same night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bond with two chains, and watchmen before the door stood beside him, and a light shone in the cell; and he nudged Peter on the side and wake him up, saying, "Get up quickly!" And the chains dropped from his hands. And the angel said to him, "Tighten your belt and put on your sandals." And he did; and he said to him, "Wrap yourself in your cloak and follow me." And he followed him out, not knowing that what the angel was doing was real, for he thought he was dreaming. But they passed by the first and the second guard and reached the iron gate that led to the city – and it opened to them by itself. And they went out and walked along one street, and suddenly the angel left him.

Then Peter came to his senses and said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's hands, and from all the Jewish people were plotting!"

GOSPEL: LUKE 17:12 - 19

At that time as Jesus was entering a certain village, there met him ten lepers, who stood afar off and lifted up their voice, crying, "Jesus, master, have pity on us."

And when he saw them he said, "Go, show yourselves to priests." And it came to pass as they were on their way that they were made clean.

But one of them, seeing that he was made clean, returned, with a loud voice glorifying God, and he fell on his face at his feet, giving thanks; and he was a Samaritan. But Jesus answered and said, "Were not the ten made clean? But where are the nine? Has no one been found to return and give glory to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Arise, go your way, for your faith has saved you."

CATECHETICAL SUMMARY

Today, in the Gospel account of the healing of the ten lepers, we hear of a most serious sin. Truly, it is a sin which is at the foundation of so many others sins and temptations which we face today. The sin is that of forgetfulness.

Today it seems that so many in our world have forgotten God, and we ourselves are tempted to do the same in our daily life. This foundational sin of forgetfulness leads us to frustration and anger, jealousy and covetousness, and so many other sins which spring from our forgetting God. And in place of our remembrance, in the absence of our constant communion with the Lord, our society today has convinced many of the "rights" which every member of society must enjoy. Everything, we are told, is ours by "right." And when we do not get what we want or what we think is owed to us, we become frustrated, angry and jealous.

The truth is quite different. All we have, from the air we breathe and the ground we stand upon, to the home we live in and the life we enjoy is a gift from God. And when we remember this, when we live in constant awareness of the gifts of the Lord, then we cease to be jealous, angry and frustrated, and begin to live the life of thanksgiving.

This is the new life, the life of thanksgiving, that the Samaritan leper, the only one to return to Jesus after he had been healed, discovered when we were cleansed by the Lord. It is the most important lesson that we can learn if we seek to follow Christ.

Challenge Questions:

1. The word "eucharist" means "thanksgiving." How does this help us understand what we are supposed to be doing when we are celebrating the Divine Liturgy?
2. In what ways can we say thank you to God for the life he has given us?
3. How can I become a "Eucharistic" person?