

**MELKITE RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH
THIRTEENTH 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

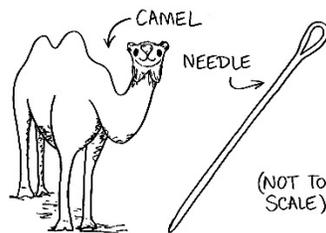
After the stone was sealed by the Jews
and the while the soldiers were watching Your spotless body,
You rose, O Savior, on the third day, giving life to the world.
Wherefore, the heavenly powers cried out to you, O Giver of life:
"Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your kingdom!
Glory to Your economy, O You who alone are the lover of mankind!"

GOSPEL: LUKE 18:18 - 27

At that time a certain man approached Jesus and asked him, saying, "Good Master, what shall I do to gain eternal life?" But Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but only God. You know the commandments; 'Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness. Honor thou father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have kept ever since I was a child." But when Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing is still lacking to you; sell everything you own, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When he heard these things, he was much grieved, for he was very rich. But Jesus, seeing him become sad, said, "With what difficulty will the wealthy enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And they who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" He said to them, "Things men cannot do alone, they can do with God's help."

CATECHETICAL SUMMARY

The "Eye of the Needle"



Over the past few Sundays we have followed the theme of "riches," our attachment to them and how we manage them. Today we are presented another "rich man" and with the famous image of the camel attempting to enter the kingdom of God through the "eye of the needle." While this image may be confusing for some people today, for those of Jesus' day the example would have been obvious. The "eye of the needle" was not, as some may think, a reference to a sewing needle (as depicted above), but to a hole in the city wall that was opened next to the major gates of the city (as seen below). In the picture below you can see a man who can squeeze through the opening in wall but would not be able to carry much along with him. Just to the right of the "eye of the needle" is the original location of the city gate through which Jesus walked when he made his way to the Golgotha.

Understanding this reference will help us understand what Jesus is telling the rich man in the Gospel account. The purpose of the eye of the needle was to allow people to enter the city after the gates of the city were closed for the night. However, to protect the city against armed invasion, the hole in the wall was made just big enough for a traveler to enter but not big enough for an army. The purpose of the image is quite clear then: no one will be able to enter the Kingdom of God who is attached to worldly things. For those

who desire to enter God's kingdom, their focus and attachment and concern must be entrance into the city alone. God's people cannot have a divided heart!



Challenge Questions:

1. What things in our life can we "not live without?" (Cell phone? Music? Television?)
2. Is it possible to have worldly things and yet not be attached to them?
3. What are some practical ways that we can separate ourselves from our worldly attachments for a time to ensure that we are truly attached to God?