

**RUTHENIAN RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH
THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

Parents: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Parents: Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O gracious One.

Children: Holy ✠ God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. *(Three times)*

Glory be to the Father ✠ and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins; Master, forgive our transgressions; Holy One, come to 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 forever. 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 2

When you descended to death, O Immortal Life,
you destroyed Hades by the brilliance of your divinity;
and when you raised the dead from the depths of the earth,
all the heavenly powers cried out:
O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to you.

EPISTLE: 2 CORINTHIANS 11:31 - 12:9

Brethren, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus, who is blessed forever, knows that I do not lie. In Damascus, the Governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to arrest me, but I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands.

It is not fitting for me to boast: but I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I do not know, or out of the body, I do not know: God knows) was caught up into paradise and heard secret sayings that man may not repeat. Of such a man I will boast; but of myself I will glory in nothing except my weaknesses. For if I do wish to boast, I shall not be foolish, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I give up, lest any man have an idea of me beyond what he sees in me or hears from me. And lest the greatness of the revelation puff me up, there was given to me a thorn for the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me. Concerning this, I begged the Lord three times that it might leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is enough for you, for strength is made perfect in weakness." Gladly, then, will I glory in my weaknesses, that the strength of Christ may dwell in me.¹

GOSPEL: LUKE 6:31 - 36

The Lord said, "Even as you wish men to do to you, so also do you to them. And if you love those who love you, what merit have you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what merit have you? For even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive in return, what merit have you? For even sinners lend to sinners that they may get back as much in return. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, not hoping for any return, and your reward shall be great, and you shall be children of the Most High, for He is kind towards the ungrateful and evil. Be merciful, therefore, even as your Father is merciful."²

CATECHETICAL SUMMARY

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us with a very personal question about motives. In every moral action of a human being there is a purpose, a motive, which "motivates" us to act. Sadly, in most instances, that motivation is for personal gain. I give someone a loan so as to hope for more in return. I love another because I was first loved by them. I do good to another because the other is doing good to me. I forgive another only if they first ask for forgiveness from me. Such is the world's approach to life – to live my life for personal advancement, and for personal gain.

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

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

Today Jesus challenges us to rise above this common approach to our moral actions, by inviting us to become “children of the Most High” and thereby beginning to live and act according to God’s way of acting. It is Jesus who is Love Incarnate, and because he is God from all eternity, he needs nothing, he lacks nothing. There is nothing that God’s creation can give him that he does not already possess. Hidden within this reality and revelation of the perfect nature of God is a simple but beautifully related truth: that God’s love is totally self-less. While the world would like us to believe that we will obtain happiness and fulfillment by the acquisition of things, the Lord challenges this thinking by turning it on its head, and showing us that we—made in the image and likeness of God—will only discover fulfillment and happiness when we learn to give of ourselves for the sake of others. True wealth is not the acquisition of things, but the acquisition of God’s way of life.