

**RUTHENIAN RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH  
SEVENTEENTH 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 Give 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 8**

You descended from on high, O merciful One.  
You accepted burial for three days to free us from our passions.  
O Lord, our Resurrection and our Life, glory to you.

## **EPISTLE: 2 CORINTHIANS 6:16 - 7:1**

What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

“I will live in them and move among them,  
and I will be their God,  
and they shall be my people.  
Therefore come out from them,  
and be separate from them, says the Lord,  
and touch nothing unclean;  
then I will welcome you,  
and I will be a father to you,  
and you shall be my sons and daughters,  
says the Lord Almighty.”

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.<sup>1</sup>

## **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.”<sup>2</sup>

## **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

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<sup>1</sup> Epistle Book, English (Apostolos): Bishop Joseph Raya, Alleluia Press, 1980

<sup>2</sup> Gospel Book, English: Bishop Joseph Raya, Alleluia Press, 1978

ask for forgiveness from me. Such is the world's approach to life – to live my life for personal advancement, and for personal gain.

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.