

RUTHENIAN RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

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. Amen.

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: EPHESIANS 4:7 - 13

Brethren, to each one of us the grace was given according to the measure of Christ's bestowal. Thus it says, *Ascending on high, he let away captives; he gave gifts to men* (Ps 61:19). Now this *ascending*, what does it mean but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended, he it is who ascended also above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. And he himself gave some men as apostles, and some as prophets, and others as pastors and teachers, in order to perfect the saints for a work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the deep knowledge of the Son of God, to perfect manhood, to the mature measure of the fullness of Christ.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:12 - 17

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
toward the sea, across the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”
From that time Jesus began to preach, saying,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

CATECHETICAL SUMMARY

In today's Gospel we hear the announcement of the “Kingdom of Heaven.” With this announcement, Jesus begins his public ministry in which he will exercise his kingship by reclaiming dominion over his creation and most importantly reclaiming his dominion over man who is made in his image and likeness.

The great Biblical scholar Origen explains that “The kingdom of heaven” is not in a place but in disposition. For it is “within” us.”

Just as with any earthly kingdom, so with the heavenly kingdom, the citizens of the kingdom are invited to obey the King and follow the laws set out by the king for the common good of the entire kingdom.

We who accept the invitation to divine citizenship are invited to do just this, to accept Jesus as the King of our life and to begin to live our life in accord with the laws of His divine kingdom.

And what are those laws? For Jesus, and for we who call him our King, our law is simply the law of love – to love God above all things and to love our neighbor as ourselves.