

RUTHENIAN RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH SUNDAY OF CHEESE-FARE

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 4

The joyful message of the resurrection was heard by the women disciples from the angel,
and being freed from the ancestral curse,
they boasted to the apostles:
Death is despoiled;
Christ our God is risen, giving great mercy to the world.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.
Amen.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:14 - 21

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their offenses, neither will your Father forgive you your offenses. And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, who disfigure their faces in order to appear to men as fasting. Amen I say to you they have had their reward.

But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not be seen by men to fast, but by your Father, who is in secret; and your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where worm and rodent consume, and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither worm nor rodent consume, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will be your heart."

CATECHETICAL SUMMARY

"What is the treasure of our life? What do we value most?"

Let us not answer this question flippantly, or with ease, but let us ask it seriously. The things we value most are those we tend to spend the most time with, and for. What we value most we tend to guard and keep secure. What we value most we tend to have on our mind and on our lips. What we value most we tend to invest our lives in.

A good test may be to consider what we talk about the most when we speak with others. A good test may be to consider what we look forward to most in our life each day, each week and each year.

The time of Great Lent, which begins this Sunday evening with the service of mutual forgiveness, offers us forty days to re-order our lives and make the things which we **know** are the most important—namely our relationship with the Lord—**actually** the most important. The time of Lent is a time in which we, with the grace of God, begin to focus our life on God and order all things in relationship to him.

And our relationship with the Lord is not a vague decision which we make. It is a practical reality that affects all aspects of our life; how we spend our time, what and how much we eat and when, where we go for entertainment, what we read, the types of friends we choose, etc. There is no aspect of our life which is hidden from the Lord, and there can be no aspect of our life which is not impacted by our relationship with him.