

RUTHENIAN RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS & THE HOLY RELICS

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 6

Angelic powers appeared at your tomb, and the guards became like dead men.
Mary stood at the tomb seeking your most pure body.
You despoiled Hades without a challenge.
You, the Giver of Life met the Virgin.
O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to you!

EPISTLE: HEBREWS 1:10 - 2:3

You in the beginning, O Lord, did found the earth, and the heavens are works of your hands. They shall perish, but you shall continue; and they shall all grow old as does a garment, and as clothing shall you change them, and they shall be changed. But you are the same, and your years shall not fail (Ps. 101:26-28)

Now, to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies the footstool at your feet" (Ps. 109:1)? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent for service, for the sake of those who shall inherit salvation?

That is why we should all the more earnestly observe the things we have heard, lest perhaps we drift away. For if the word spoken by angels proved to be valid, and every transgression and disobedience received a just punishment, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? For it was first announced by the Lord and was confirmed to us by those who heard it.

GOSPEL: MARK 2:1 - 12

At that time Jesus entered Capernaum, and it was reported that he was at home. And immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room, not even around the door. And he spoke the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four. And since they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where he was, and, having made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying. And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the Paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

Now some of the Scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man blaspheme in this way? Who can forgive sins, besides God?"

And at once Jesus, knowing in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why are you arguing these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, and take up your pallet, and walk'? But that you may know the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" — he said to the paralytic — "I say to you, arise, take up your pallet, and go to your house."

And immediately he arose and, taking up his pallet, went forth in the sight of all, so that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, "Never did we see anything like this!"

CATECHETICAL SUMMARY

The Faith of the Many sufficed for the Healing of the One

Today we hear the beautiful story of the healing of the paralytic who was brought by his friends through the roof of a building to Jesus, because they could get to him otherwise with the crowds. The Gospel tells us that the occasion for the healing of the paralytic, the reason why Jesus healed him, was that he saw "their faith."

How powerful faith is! Faith not only has the power to unite us to Christ (as we noted last week), but can also save those for whom we intercede.

All of us struggle in the faith; all of us stumble and become distracted by the enticements of the world. But if we are surrounded by faithful friends, we can be held up, and even saved from spiritual danger by them.

Choosing good friends, then, is very, very important. They will either lead us to Christ, as the friends of the paralytic did, or they will lead us away from the Lord and endanger our salvation.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

1. What are the criteria by which we choose our friends?
2. What is the most important thing I can do as a friend?
3. What is an example of being a true friend, and what is an example of being a false friend?
4. Have I chosen my friends well?