

## RUTHENIAN RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER

### 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 3

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;  
for the Lord has shown the might of his arm.  
By his death the Lord has trampled Death;  
he has become the first born of the of the dead;  
he has delivered us from the depths of Hades and has granted great mercy to the world.

## EPISTLE: HEBREWS 6:13 - 20

Brethren, when God made his promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater to swear by, he swore by himself, saying, "*I will surely bless you, and will surely multiply you*" (Gen. 22:14). And so, after patient waiting, Abraham obtained the promise. For men swear by one greater than themselves, and an oath given as a guarantee is the final settlement of all their disagreements.

Hence God, meaning to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the firmness of his will interposed an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to deceive, we may have the strongest comfort — we who have sought refuge in holding fast the hope set before us. This hope we have as a sure and firm anchor of the soul, reaching even behind the veil where our forerunner Jesus has entered for us, as he became a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

## GOSPEL: MARK 9:17 - 31

At that time one of the crowd came to Jesus and bowed to him saying: "Master, I have brought to you my son, who has a dumb spirit; and whenever it seizes him it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth; and he is wasting away. And I told your disciples to cast it out, but they could not."

And he, answering him, said, "O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to me." And they brought him to him; and the spirit, when it saw Jesus, immediately threw the boy in convulsions, and he fell down on the ground and rolled about foaming at the mouth.

So he asked his father, "How long is it since this has come upon him?" And he said, "From his infancy. Oftentimes, it has thrown him into the fire and into the waters to destroy him. But if you can do anything have compassion on us and help us."

But Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to the man of faith." At once the father of the boy cried out and said with tears, "I do believe; help my unbelief."

Now when Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, go out of him and enter him no more." And crying out and violently convulsing him, it went out of him, and he became like one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand, and raised him and he stood up.

And when he had come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind can be cast out in no way except by prayer and fasting." And leaving that place, they were passing through Galilee, and he did not wish anyone to know it. For he was teaching his disciples, and saying to them, "The Son of

Man is to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and having been killed, he will rise again on the third day."

## **CATECHETICAL SUMMARY**

In the Epistle appointed for this Sunday, we learn about the "oath" which God has made with us. What is an oath? Saint Paul tells us in the epistle that it is a "promise," a "guarantee," a "sure and firm anchor of the soul," the "final settlement" of disagreements.

When two people swear an oath, they are promising to be of one mind regarding the thing promised. The oath is the outward sign of the interior union of the two parties. In the case of Jesus, the oath and promise that he makes with us is that he will take us with him beyond the "veil," and make us partakers of the divine nature.

In other words, Jesus promises us that He will give us His life. Today the Lord swears an oath to us that if we willingly die to our old selves through "prayer and fasting" and promise to give ourselves to him, then the demons of our former life will be cast out, that our sins will be washed away, and that we will rise with him in His resurrection on the third day.

We have hope then, having promised our life to the Lord, that when the day of Pascha arrives, we who have died with him will receive a new life in him.