

RUTHENIAN RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE WOMAN

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 2

When you descended to death, O Immortal Life,
you destroyed Hades by the brilliance of your divinity;
and when you raised the dead from the depths of the earth,
all the heavenly powers cried out:
O Giver of Life, Christ our God, 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 walk 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 your father,
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 of spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 15:21 - 28

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not say a word in answer to her.

His disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us."

He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

But the woman came and did him homage, saying, "Lord, help me."

He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs."

She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters."

Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that hour.

CATECHETICAL SUMMARY

Today the Church proclaims to her children two biblical texts which, at first glance, seem to conflict. First, Saint Paul, quoting the Old Testament (Lv.26: 11.2), instructs God's people to "come out" from among the unbelievers and "be separated." Then, in the Gospel proclamation we learn of Jesus' withdrawal from his own people, and journey into a foreign land where he encounters a woman who is, according to the law, unclean. How are we to reconcile these two texts?

While in the Old Testament God's people were called to physically separate themselves from "unclean" peoples in order to avoid the influence of paganism, in the New Testament Jesus teaches us where true holiness is found. The "separation" which Saint Paul calls for in the Epistle is not an ethnic or regional one (cf. Gal 3:28), but rather a spiritual one – a separation from sin. And this separation from sin happens when we, like the Canaanite woman, proclaim Jesus as our "Lord" and cry out to him "help me." Through faith in the Lord we are united to him, and become temples of the Holy Spirit.

No longer will the Father be worshiped in a temple made of dead stones, either in Jerusalem or in any other city built by men (Jn 4:21), but in the hearts of those who profess Jesus as King and Lord.

Challenge Questions:

1. How should we, as Christians, "separate" ourselves?
2. What is faith?
3. How are we "Temples of the Living God?"