

**RUTHENIAN RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH
THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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 7

You have destroyed Death by your cross;
you opened paradise to the thief.
The sorrow of the myrrh-bearers you turned to joy.
You commanded your apostles to proclaim:
Christ our God, you have risen, granting great mercy to the world.

EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 2:14 - 22

Brethren, Christ is our peace. He it is who has made both [Jews and Gentiles] one, and has broken down the intervening wall of the enclosure, the enemy, in his flesh. He has voided the Law of commandments expressed in decrees, so that of the two he might create in himself one new man, and make peace, and reconcile both in one body to God through the cross, having destroyed their enmity within himself. And as he came, he announced the good tidings of peace to you who were far away, and of peace to those who were near: because through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Therefore, you are now no longer strangers or foreigners, but citizens with the saints and members of God's household: you are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets (Cf. Is 28:16) with Christ himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole structure is closely fitted together and grows into a temple holy in the Lord; in him you too are being built together into a dwelling place for God in the Spirit.¹

GOSPEL: LUKE 8:41 - 56

At that time behold, there came a man named Jairus to Jesus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at the feet of Jesus, he entreated him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. And it happened as he went that he was pressed upon by the crowds. And a certain woman who for twelve years had had a hemorrhage, and had spent all her means on physicians, but could not be cured by anyone, came up behind him and touched the tassel of his cloak; and at once her hemorrhage ceased.

And Jesus said, "Who touched me? But as all were denying it, Peter, and those who were with him, said, "Master, the crowds throng and press upon thee, and dost thou say, 'Who touched me?' But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; for I perceived that power had gone forth from me." But the woman, seeing that she had not escaped notice, came up trembling, and falling down at his feet, declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been healed instantly. And he said to her, "Daughter, thy faith has saved thee; go in peace."

While he was yet speaking, there came one from the house of the ruler of the synagogue, saying to him, "Thy daughter is dead; do not trouble him." But Jesus on hearing this word answered the father of the girl, "Do not be afraid; only have faith and she shall be saved." And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and James and John, and the girl's father and mother. And all were weeping and mourning for her. But he said, "Do not weep; she is asleep, not dead." And they laughed

¹ Epistle Book, English (Apostolos): Bishop Joseph Raya, Alleluia Press, 1980

at him, knowing that she was dead. But he, taking her by the hand, cried out, saying, "Girl, arise! "And her spirit returned, and she rose up immediately. And he directed that something be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed, but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.²

CATECHETICAL SUMMARY

The Gospel today reminds us of the power of faith. To the woman who was hemorrhaging, Jesus said "go, daughter, your faith has healed you." To Jairus, Jesus says "believe, and your daughter will be well." In both cases presented to us today we learn that faith has the power to heal and restore one to health. However, there is something more hidden in the text that we should notice. It was because of the faith of the father, Jairus, that his daughter was healed. Our faith has the power to affect not only ourselves, but others as well. Yes, faith/belief is a most powerful gift. What is it?

We speak often about faith, we say "I believe" every Divine Liturgy, but do we really know what it is?

Faith is the total gift of our self to the one in whom we believe. When faith is directed at the Lord, when we entrust ourselves totally to God, we can then say with Saint Paul "It is now no longer I who live, but Christ is living in me." And suddenly, in the moment of faith, our whole life becomes filled with his life – divinized. It is for this reason that faith has the power to heal – and not only heal the one who believes but also others for whom the believer intercedes. In that moment of faith, God's life fills up my illness, my weakness, and my sinfulness with his life and heals me from the inside out. When I am filled with Jesus' life then I can begin to do for others what Jesus has done for me, namely become an instrument of healing by the sharing of God's life.

Practical Questions:

1. What are some other words that I can use to describe faith?
2. How has faith in Jesus Christ healed you or changed your life?
3. What are some ways in which we can bring healing to others through our faith in the Lord?

² Gospel Book, English: Bishop Joseph Raya, Alleluia Press, 1978