

UKRAINIAN RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

Parents: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen. *(Three times)*

Response: Glory be to you, our God, glory be to You.

Parents: Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life, come and dwell within us; cleanse us of all that defiles us, and O Good One, save our souls.

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.

Trinity most Holy, have mercy on us. Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord; Pardon our transgressions, O master; look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One; for the sake of Your name.

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 1

Though the stone was sealed by the Jews and soldiers guarded Your most pure body,
You arose, O Savior, on the third day, and gave life to the world.
And so the heavenly powers cried out to You, O Giver of life:
Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your kingdom!
Glory to Your saving plan, O only Lover of Mankind.

EPISTLE: ROMANS 2:10-16

Brethren, glory, honor and peace to everyone who does good works, first to the Jew, then to the Greek, since with God there is no favoritism.

For all those who have sinned without the Law will perish without the Law, and all those who have sinned under the Law will be judged under the Law. (Before God, indeed, it is not those who hear the Law who are just, but those who follow the Law who will be justified. When the Gentiles who do not have the Law do by nature what the Law commands, while they do not have the Law, they are their own law: they show the work of the Law written in their hearts. The conscience bears witness to them, even when conflicting thoughts accuse or defend them) on the day when God will judge the hidden secrets of men according to what I preach, through Jesus Christ.¹

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:18-23

At that time as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea (for they were fishermen). And He said to them, "Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." And at once they left the nets and followed Him. And going farther on, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John, in a boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. And immediately they left their nets and their father, and followed Him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the Good News of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.²

CATECHETICAL SUMMARY

In his letter to the Church in Rome, St. Paul teaches that God will bestow His blessings upon the Jews who do good works and fulfill the Law of Moses. For St. Paul, those who do not know the Law and have never heard the commandments will be rewarded according to how well they follow their conscience. The Gentiles fulfill the Law according to natural reasoning by following their conscience. God's will is written into the human heart, speaking to us through our conscience and reason. Both Jews and Gentiles (the non-Jews) can taste Paradise. For us Christians, who know the Gospel and have heard the Lord's call to turn away from sin, to love God and our neighbor, our burden is two-fold. We must be obedient to the Word of God as well as to our conscience and reason. Through harmony between our conscience, the Lord's commands, and our words and actions, God will bestow upon us His glory, honor and peace.

We are not meant to hear the Gospel with our ears only, but to hear with faith and obedience. With faith and obedience, Jesus calls us to follow Him with our whole lives. The Gospel presents the faith and obedience of these four Apostles when they are first called. They have a difficult but pleasant life, fishing on the Sea of Galilee with their family and friends. But, Jesus calls them to leave their old life behind, to come and follow Him. They trust that the Lord will lead them to a better life. And so, by faith, they leave everything behind and immediately follow. When they leave their nets and boat, they leave trusting the Lord, but not knowing what lies ahead. They do not know, at the time, that they will be filled with wisdom and the Holy Spirit and that their lives will be an offering for the salvation of the whole world. If the Lord is calling us to follow Him, to leave behind our old life, we may not see where we will end up. But, through faith today and hope for tomorrow, we too can leave behind our nets and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. If we follow His call, we will have life in abundance, beyond anything we could achieve on our own.

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

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

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

1. How is God calling you to “come, follow” Him in your life?
2. What “nets and vessel” must you leave behind, to be obedient to God’s call in your life?
3. What keeps you from following the Lord? Is it worth it?

THE FATHERS ON SCRIPTURE

The kingdom of heaven has no price tag on it: It is worth as much as you have. For Zacchaeus it was worth half of what he owned, because the other half that he had unjustly pocketed he promised to restore fourfold. For Peter and Andrew it was worth the nets and vessel they had left behind; for the widow it was worth two copper coins; for another it was worth a cup of cold water. So, as we said, the kingdom of heaven is worth as much as you have.

ST. GREGORY THE DIALOGIST, FORTY GOSPEL HOMILIES 5.2.

But note both their faith and their obedience. For though they were in the midst of their work (and you know how time-consuming a chore fishing is), when they heard his command they did not delay or procrastinate. They did not say, “Let us return home, and talk things over with our family.” Instead, “they left everything behind and followed,” even as Elisha did when he followed Elijah. For Christ seeks this kind of obedience from us, such that we delay not even for a moment, though something absolutely most necessary should vehemently press in on us.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW, HOMILY 14.2.³

³ Simonetti, M. (2001). *Matthew 1–13*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.