

UKRAINIAN RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH SUNDAY OF MEAT-FARE

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 3

Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice,
for the Lord has done a mighty deed with His arm.
He trampled death by death;
He became the first born of the dead;
He saved us from the abyss of Hades and granted great mercy to the world."

EPISTLE: 1 CORINTHIANS 8:8 - 9:2

Brethren, food does not commend us to God. For neither shall we gain any advantage if we eat, nor suffer any loss if we do not. And yet, beware lest perhaps this right of yours become a stumbling-block to the weak. For if a man sees you who "have knowledge" sitting at table in a place dedicated to idols, will not his conscience, weak as it is, be emboldened to eat idol offerings? And through your "knowledge" the weak one will perish, the brother for whom Christ died.

Now, when you sin in this way against the brethren and wound their weak conscience, you are sinning against Christ. Therefore, if food scandalizes my brother, I will never again eat any more meat so as not to scandalize my brother.

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? And if to others I am not an apostle, yet to you I am. For you are the seal set upon my apostleship in the Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:31 - 46

The Lord said, "At that time when the Son of Man shall come in his majesty, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory; and before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and he will set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then the king will say to those on his right hand, Come, blessed of my Father, take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; naked and you covered me; sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me.'

Then the just will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, and feed you; or thirsty, and give you to drink? And when did we see you a stranger, and take you in; or naked, and clothe you? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?'

And answering, the King will say to them, 'Amen I say to you, every time you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left hand, 'Go away from me, accursed ones, into the everlasting fire which was prepared for the devil and his ministers. For I was hungry, and you did not give me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take me in; naked and you did not clothe me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit me.'

Then they also will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of you?'

Then he will answer them, saying, 'Amen I say to you as long as you did not do it for one of these least ones, you did not do it for me.' And these will go into everlasting punishment, but the just into everlasting life."

CATECHETICAL SUMMARY

In the Gospel appointed for Meat-Fare Sunday we learn that what we do to our neighbor, we do to Christ. How is this possible? How are we to understand the spiritual meaning of this truth?

First, we must always remember that we, men and women, were made in the image and likeness of God. Even after the Ancestral Sin of our first parents, we remained in God's image. This truth is important when considering our actions toward others. What we do to others, Christians and non-Christians alike, we do to God who remains present in us through the stamp of his image.

In our baptism we were united to Christ and made partakers of his own life, so much so that we can now say with Saint Paul "It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:20). This second and deeper level of our identity with Christ, makes the above truth even more profound.

It is Christ who we speak with when we talk with our friends. Christ is present with us as we either care for, or ignore, those around us. Christ is here with us when we either embrace or push away those who are in need. Christ is within us and is in the heart of our neighbor with whom we interact.

As we begin our Lenten journey, let us consider how we treat others in relationship to Christ. Let Christ be in our mind, on our lips, in our heart. Let it be Christ's hands that are outstretched when we help our neighbor who is in need. Let it be Christ's feet that walk where we walk each day. During this Lenten season, let us recognize the presence of God in each and every person we meet.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

1. In terms of the above comments, what happened to us when we were baptized?
2. How should I act toward my brother, sister, friend or neighbor when I realize that they have God within them?
3. What are some ways that I can make Lent an opportunity to live Jesus' life?
4. What are some ways in which Jesus cared for those around him, and what are some ways that I conform my life to Jesus' way of life?