

Saint Jonah, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2019 Alexandra Houck.
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The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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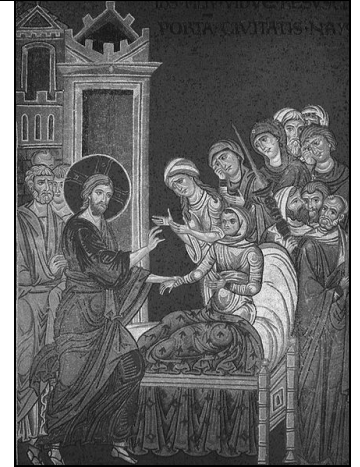
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Sadness to joy

Have you ever been sad about something, and somebody tried to make you feel happier? That is a very nice thing for somebody to do!

In today's Gospel reading, we hear about a woman in a very sad situation. She had a right to be sad! She was a widow, so her husband had died. But in the story, her own son had died too. You can imagine that she was *very* sad. But can you guess Who came to comfort the poor woman?



The Gospel tells us that Jesus came to this city where the woman lived, and "He had compassion on her and said to her, 'Do not weep.'" "Don't cry." He touched her son's body, and He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." Then, the young man sat up and spoke. Our Lord had raised him up from being dead.

Of course, we know that there is a lot of sadness in the world. But our Lord Jesus Christ came to take away that sadness. He came to make us feel happier...not just today, but forever! He came to bring us real joy!

In the Gospel today, we hear how the people in the story were all so sad at first, but at the end of the story, they glorified God. They were amazed and joyful. God wants to give this joy to us too. Let's pay attention to all the wonderful things He does for us!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- BISHOP
- CHINA
- JONAH
- JOYFUL
- LIVING
- ORPHANS
- OUR LORD
- SADNESS
- WEEP

K L F F S M Z D P S J O H S I
 D I O U S N R M Z E F U Q S W
 Q V F E B O A A M O E O P E T
 C I H Y L J I H Q A C W F N C
 N N Z R O V Y D P W F W K D L
 J G U N J S A A S R C B P A Z
 N O A L B I S H O P O V H S J
 O H Y W P W H G Z J F P T T A
 D K L F I M Y E J Z N H O Z F
 L Q L C U E M X Q Z F Q D P B
 Y T O F W L J V D B D Z W X V
 G Y A N I H C Z W J A R I A O
 Y D Z S Q W L N V M K O J I O
 H Y P E I A U O O K P J N U B
 L D Q S Y Q L I J Z Y Q H Y X

SAINT JONAH OF HANKOW, CHINA PROTECTOR OF ORPHANS

Have you ever felt sorry for yourself? Maybe you had a bad day. Maybe you have problems at home or at school. Maybe you felt sorry for other reasons, too.



A photo of Saint Jonah

Saint Jonah lived about a hundred years ago. He had lots of reasons to feel sorry for himself. He lost both of his parents when he was just eight. Later on, Jonah became a monk in an important monastery in Russia. But, when he was there, a big revolution made things awful for him. The communists, who were in charge, didn't like Christians. They beat him up, made him sick, and sent him to prison.

Saint Jonah finally was freed from prison, and he left Russia. He went to Northern China to get away from it all. When he was there, he could have felt sorry for himself. Things weren't good. But Saint Jonah knew he had work to do. He wanted to help the people there. He wanted to tell them about Jesus Christ. He built an orphanage for poor, orphan kids to live in. He built a school to teach them. He built a dining hall to feed them.

Saint Jonah reminds us that when things are hard for us, we can still do work for God and His church and His people! Sometimes, the hard things in our lives can help us make things easier for people who have hard times too. Remember, Saint Jonah was an orphan, and he helped orphans!

We celebrate St. Jonah tomorrow, Monday, Oct. 7th (Oct. 20, OC).

What's in an icon?

Here is an icon of Saint Jonah of China.

He was a bishop. Can you find his bishop's staff? It looks a little different from others, because he lived in China!

