

Saint Sarah, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2022 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensword (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

# 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

Sunday, July 10, 2022

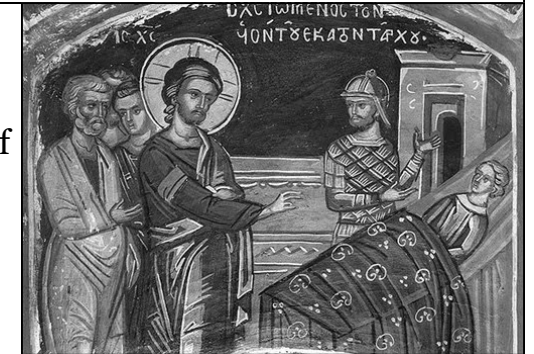
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## Servants of God

**When you receive Holy Communion**, do you listen to what the priest says? You hear, "The servant of God, (your name) receives the Body and Blood of Christ for forgiveness of sins and eternal life." The priest calls you a "servant of God"!



Today in the Gospel, we hear about another ruler. He came to Jesus because *his* servant was paralyzed and couldn't walk. The servant was very sick, and his master wanted Jesus to heal him. This ruler cared for his servant, and he wanted the Lord to care for him too. And Jesus did have compassion, and He did heal this poor servant.

This ruler cared for his servant, and our Lord God cares for us even more! At Communion, the priest calls us "servants of God" because that's what we are. We have a loving ruler (God), and we try to do what He wants. We try to follow His rules. We are servants of God, because we serve the Lord!

Remember, the important ruler in the Gospel story today took care of his servant and asked for healing. Our Lord God is ready to take care of us too. When we receive Holy Communion, we ask Him to heal us too. When God forgives us of our sins, He heals us, doesn't He?

Let's always remember what a precious thing it is to be called a "servant of God." And let's thank God for healing us with the "forgiveness of sins."

# WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Advice
- Communion
- Compassion
- Desert
- Forgiveness
- Healing
- Illness
- Mother
- Paralytic
- Prayer
- Ruler
- Sarah

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

## WHAT'S IN AN ICON?

Sometimes saints hold little scrolls with something that they once said. Here is an icon of Saint Sarah again. Can you read her sign?

“Rather I shall pray that my heart may be pure towards all.”



## SAINT SARAH A DESERT MOTHER

**Have you ever heard of the desert fathers?** Well, they were monks who lived a long time ago, in the desert. They lived there so that they could spend all their time praying to God. There, they didn't have to think about the same kinds of things you'd think about if you lived in a city. They could think about growing closer to God. People would go to them for advice, and we still have some stories about them and some things they wrote—even from 1,700 years ago!



Some people don't know that we have desert mothers too! Saint Sarah (or Amma, which means “Mother”) lived near the river Nile (what is the country of Libya today). She lived all by herself for 60 years. She didn't have comfortable things because she only wanted to focus on the Lord! People would come to her to ask her how they could grow close to God too. Even some of the desert fathers asked for her help.

Saint Sarah wasn't perfect (only God is perfect, right?), but she tried to be perfect. For a long time, she kept being tempted to do wrong things. She would ask God for help, and she would pray, “Oh God, give me strength.” We can take St. Sarah's advice whenever we feel like doing something wrong, too!

We celebrate this Saint Sarah on Wed., July 13th (OC: July 26th).