

Dearly Beloved,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

July 05, 2026, Sixth Sunday after the Feast of Pentecost

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Exodus 30:34-38, Joshua 10:33-37, 2 Samuel 3:17-21, Isaiah 14:22-27
- NT: Acts 1:15-18, 1 Corinthians 8:1-8, Holy Gospel St Luke 13:22-35

Holy Gospel: St Luke 13:22-35

²²He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³And some one said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, ²⁴"Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵When once the householder has risen up and shut the door, you will begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us.' He will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' ²⁶Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' ²⁷But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from; depart from me, all you workers of iniquity!' ²⁸There you will weep and gnash your teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves thrust out. ²⁹And men will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came, and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. ³³Nevertheless I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.' ³⁴O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! ³⁵Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

Reflections:

Here in this gospel text, we hear a purely naive question, 'would I be saved?' Salvation is a word that has been used throughout past ages and thus nearly had its meaning - lost, changed or considered irrelevant. In a perfect world, nobody would feel that salvation is required, because all are saved by one system or another.

A healthy body and mind might be the perfect system to begin with. Technology and advanced facilities offer a sense of security and advancement. Weather warnings guide us on what weather to expect and how to be prepared for it early in the day. Overseas travels are easier with the latest machines and tools. Accidents can be avoided with ample advice. Medical science is now bringing healing to almost all pathological conditions if diagnosed early or before it gets too late. Parasailing, sky diving, cliff hanging, walking in outer space, landing on the moon or planets, etc are finding more people who are willing to give it a try at a minimum. Past adventures are no more adventurous. People seem more equipped today, to deal with the uncertain.

Peripherally everything appears ok. If we sincerely and honestly ask ourselves: is everything ok? Do we feel safe and secure? Who would say, yes, we are?! If a simple fever lasts for more than two

days, we start worrying. From then onwards, every minute would be monitored and counted with added worries and fears. The question, 'would I be saved?' becomes more personal and existential. Imagine, on a flight, while going through heavy turbulence, or a hijack alert, a child asks the same question- 'Mom, would we be saved?'

Jesus took the question seriously. He knew the world was almost a wretched place with its lost morale, various evil practices, social evils, political oppression. Salvation seemed possible only for the elite. Redemption was possible only for the rich. At the temple, these were assured through expensive sacrifices. In the state, heavy taxes and timely payments were necessitated from the common man. When Christ saw the people, He felt that they were like sheep without shepherd. Salvation carries deeper meaning than just a saving act. It is more of a state of being saved and redeemed throughout life. It is not about being saved from a particular situation. 'Are you saved' is not a question about an incident? It is a thought that we must ask daily or must address in the affirmative as: I am saved.

Jesus replied to the question of salvation saying: one would need to take some effort, preferably hard work, self-limiting, to take the untrodden path. He asked us to take the narrow road- the unpopular and less in demand route. It is not about going after the popular or 'viral' trends. Jesus said, if we earn the whole world and we lose the soul, what does it benefit? Salvation becomes an absolute necessity in this context. We are in a better world than the past in achievements, general upgrading of everything, quality, and positivity. But when we look at the soul factor, we are still lost. We have things but without a soul or life. Or we may have everything, with dead souls. We count our days, but we don't live. We believe in God, but we don't feel Him. We pray, without feeling connected. We join the worship, without enthusiasm. We receive the sacrificial lamb of God, without being ready to sacrifice ourselves. Way to salvation and living in salvation demands some personal effort which could be hard and challenging. We cannot allow our life to be wrecked while following the 'viral' culture. It is of commitment, dedication, sacrifice, hard work and adventure, like it was lived by the Lord himself, by the apostles, by the early saints and martyrs. It would bring us crowns towards the fullness of time. Should we ask, 'would I be saved?' Or to declare 'we are saved!!!

FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:

- **June 29, Feast of St Peter & St Paul**
- **June 30, Feast of All Apostles**
- **July 03, Dukrono of St Thomas**
- **July 05, Mission Sunday**
- **July 05, 72 Preachers**
- **July 05, Marthoma VII, 217th anniversary, entombed at Kolenchery Church**

H G Zachariah Mar Nicholovos Metropolitan's visit to our Parish on Sunday July 05th

Our Thirumeni will be visiting us on July 05, Sunday. His Grace will travel back from the Family Conference venue to visit us. Thirumeni will be celebrating the Holy Liturgy at SGOCT. Please be aware that the morning prayer will begin at 08:30 am followed by the Holy Qurbana. Please join to welcome Thirumeni at 08:15 am at the church entrance.

1st Diocesan Family & Youth Conference of Canada concludes

The inaugural Family and Youth Conference of the Diocese of Canada is coming to a gracious and blessed conclusion. While the initial planning phases began with only a modest vision and early registrations advanced slowly, momentum quickly built to welcome more than 170 enthusiastic registrants.

Every session throughout the event proved to be deeply elevating and spiritually illuminating. Participants enjoyed seamless hospitality, characterized by rich, flavorful meals and exceptionally neat, clean accommodations. The flawless execution of the itinerary reflects the flawless organization behind the scenes.

The spiritual atmosphere of the conference was profoundly transformed by our dedicated leadership and speakers: **Diocesan Bishop:** His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholovos **Resource Persons:** Very Rev. Johns Abraham Konatt Reesh Cor Episcopa, Fr. Timothy Thomas, and Fr. Abey George

The cultural presentations beautifully reflected our shared faith and heritage, brought to life by the tireless efforts of our tech team and volunteer cohorts.

As the conference concludes, participants will return home tomorrow anchored by the reassuring theme of Christ's unchanging presence in an ever-changing world. Heartfelt gratitude is extended to the clergy, the various planning committees, and all participants for their unwavering dedication and invaluable support.

Pray for Peace in the Middle East and Gulf

We are glad to hear about the peace agreement. We hope for peace and continue praying for peace and concord. Our prayers may work miracles through the Holy Spirit. May the governments and leaders join hands to reconcile and to bring an end to the war.

Attention Please:

Parking: Please be considerate while parking our vehicles, only park at designated space. Leave reserved lots for the intended and kindly park within lines and markings leaving enough space for others to open their doors without scratching or hitting nearby parked vehicles.

AREA PRAYER MEETINGS: Upcoming Prayer meeting schedules shall be updated soon.

FOR OUR ATTENTION & TO NOTE:

Children, please occupy front benches during our Liturgical Services.

Kindly avoid crowding at the back of the church.

A few concerns:

For assuring safety and undistracted worship space, we request all our members to proceed to the front rows except those that are reserved for children when we enter the temple. It could be uneasy for our volunteers to guide them to the front during the service as it might cause distraction and

noise. We avoid crowding at the entrance and stair areas due to safety concerns.

Please be considerate of our senior members to help them find seats or while they try to access the washroom. A slip or a hit should be avoided in any circumstance.

Please be watchful at the shoe rack area, which is also the entrance to both washrooms.

We request our parents to attend to our children not to pull the alarm lever at the back wall.

Hand Waving Machine & Common Absolution Prayer for all communicants

A hand-waving machine has been installed at the church entrance to record the number of communicants. Those who wish to receive the Holy Communion are requested to wave their hand once at the machine upon entering the church.

Please note that the machine will be deactivated after the recitation of the Nicene Creed.

Absolution will be administered during the morning prayer.

WEEKLY IN-PERSON MEETINGS:

LIVE streaming: All services are Live Streamed and are available.

Holy Liturgical Text for this Sunday

We will be using the English Taksā of Mar Dionysius Barsleebi this Sunday.

May the Gracious Lord keep us from all evil and heal the entire world.

Next Week

July 12, Seventh Sunday after the Feast of Pentecost

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Leviticus 16:29-34, 1 Samuel 4:18-22, Hosea 5:1-5, Isaiah 57:15-19
- NT: Acts 4:24-31, Ephesians 2:11-18, Holy Gospel St Mark 3:20-30

Yours in Christ

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