



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - MARCH 20, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

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

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent - Crippled Woman (St Luke 13:10-17)

As we progress in Lent, the scriptural readings through their order of arrangement, take us through elevated thoughts of various aspects and situations of life starting with drinks (wine) to skin disease (leprosy), stroke (immobility), Canaanite woman (social marginalisation, distancing) which now comes to crippled woman. This would pass on through Blind man (problem with vision and view of life), on 40th day with Jesus winning over Satan (most of the problems of life occur when humans yield to various unhealthy activities, stupid life style, allowing of momentous greed and falling prey to consumerism of all kinds) to finish with the miracle of raising of Lazarus (existential threat). Then we would be ready for Pascha, the most fearsome tests our Lord had to go through. Holy Week has been made into the most intense liturgical week of the year. These are all various situations and phases of life. Every human will have to pass through these situations more or less in its impact. As the slogan assures, let us hope: 'We shall overcome'!

Here the text says about Jesus healing a crippled woman who had been in that condition for 18 years and it was impossible for her to look up or stand straight. She was a Jew. Jesus touched her, she got healed. Presence of Christ heals, rectifies, transforms and uplifts. Prayer and all the faith practices are meant for this, to have an assurance of His presence and intervention in our life.

She couldn't look up. But He could look down to see her problem and to solve it. This gives us tremendous hope and positivity. We are sinful and failing in many things. We might not be able to stand straight morally, physically and spiritually. He is kind enough to look unto us and help.

We are nearing Easter (Kyomtho). The word 'Kyomtho' comes from the root 'kom' which means to stand straight.' Kauma' is the prayer we do standing. Christ has come to this world to straighten us up so as we would look unto God and to live a dignified life. For every bending realities of life would have Christ as the solver. Let us be stronger and stable.

It is surprising to see the response of synagogue leader after witnessing the healing. He blamed Jesus for disobeying Sabbath. We must be careful about our attitudes and responses we make when the work of God is revealed. If that is hypocritical, it could bring an end to good as such. We are His apostles and our responsibility would be to join in His ministry and work with Him whatever the cost would be.

COVID 19

There would be Holy Liturgy conducted on this Sunday. We are strictly adhering to both the Government rule and Ecclesial guidelines. Holy Qurbana would begin at 09:30am. It would be telecasted. Unfortunately we are unable to accommodate more than 10 members including the celebrant for the Qurbana. In the Sanctuary we would need only 5 acolytes (two for reading and



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singing, two for holding candles, one for censor). For congregation we encourage only five members, which in practice, no members please. Participants would be keeping safe distance while attending the service. No kiss of peace, no laying of hands and no dispersal kissing of cross.

Sanitising and washing of hands should be strictly followed by the participants. No handshake please. No food or drinks shall be served at church.

Home Church

We all know it would be difficult for us to keep away from attending the Qurbana. But we have no choice. Let us go back to the earliest Christian practice. We can make our home a church. Please find this an opportunity to enjoy our Lord's presence at home like the apostles when they came together for Eucharist. After participating in the Qurbana at home through telecast, please share family meal as Christ and His disciples enjoyed! Our children can say grace before and after meal. Let us make our dining table an 'Upper Table' of the Lord!

Please support our Church

We are passing through financial difficulty. Mortgage and utilities have to be paid. Please make Holy week contribution \$100 at the earliest. We can do e-transfer. Also we request our members to support with generous voluntary contribution.

Indeed, it is a hard time for the whole world. Please believe, God wouldn't allow His creation to perish. This is a test. He is sure, we would pass through. Let us acquire strength and live the time with faith and confidence. Let us be considerate to our fellow-beings. Isolation is not discrimination. Let us restrict outside life and be contained at home. There was a post online worth pondering. It shows a family sitting in yoga meditation posture. The caption is:

'If we cannot go outside, we can go inside!'

Holding you fast in prayer

God bless

Yours in Christ

Thomas John Achen