



29 Mar – 4 Apr, 2020

Jesus Christ, our Anchor of Hope

**‘But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint’**

Isaiah 40:31

Jesus Christ is our only Hope

- † ***‘These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world’ Jn 16:33***
- † ***‘For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved’ Jn 3:16-17***
- † ***‘Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him’ Jn 14:6-7***

Hope, faith and trust in Christ are interchangeable

- † ***‘For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe’ 1 Tim 4:10***
- † ***‘The farmer plants a seed, the minister preaches, the mother carries her unborn child, the student studies, and the surgeon operates, all of them with hope’ Father Anthony Coniaris***
- † ***Hope goes together with faith. ‘Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen’ Heb 11:1***

Abraham, against all odds, had great hope (Rom 4; Heb 11:8-12)

- † ***‘Abraham, who is the father of us, who, contrary to hope, in Hope believed’ Rom 4:16b, 18a***
- † ***‘By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going’ Heb 11:8 (Gn 12:1-9)***

- † Abraham chose Divine Grace over natural affection. Abraham did not give excuses to the Lord's request as the invitees to the banquet did (**Lk 14:15-24**). *'If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple'* **Lk 14:26**
- † Abraham took God's word to the fullest. God did not tell him that He will give him the land, He just promised that He will show him the land (**Gn 12:1**)
- † A disciple's relationship with God is purely built on trust in Him. *'Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is'* **1 Jn 3:2**

God's promises are always great even when there is no worldly hope

- † When Abraham was over a hundred years old and when his wife was barren, God told him, *'I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing'* **Gn 12:2**

Hope in the Lord is strength and endures forever (**Gn 13**)

- † The quarrel between Abraham and Lot was their riches
- † Abraham's hope in the Lord is clear through his detachment from the world. *'If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left'* **Gn 13:9b**
- † Lot, being the younger, was expected to ask Abraham to choose the land. However, his hope was in worldly riches
- † Lot got the good land, and Abraham got God's promise (**Gn 13:14-17**)
- † Lot lost the land and was taken captive. Abraham rescued him and Abraham's descendants were as many as grain of sands in the seashore
- † Lot walked by sight while Abraham walked by faith (**2 Cor 5:7**)

Let us wait upon Christ, our Savior

- † Perseverance in hope, faith and trust in Christ go together with fear of the Lord
- † The name Jesus means 'Savior' and the word Hosanna means 'save us'
- † At Palm Sunday, when the people shouted 'Hosanna' they had in mind the inheritor of David's 'throne' and did not see in Jesus the Savior and Messiah (**Mt 21:9**)

- † Jesus wants to save us from slavery to sin and to ‘this world’
- † All that is worldly, as slavery to the Romans 2000 years ago and Corona in our days, have an end at some point in time in this world
- † Jesus cares to build His Kingdom in people’s hearts. And nothing prevented His Kingdom from being established, not even the Cross
- † Let us join the crowd of saints and persevere until the end, unlike ‘the flow’ that shouted ‘Hosanna’ and then shouted ‘crucify Him’
- † His Kingdom was unfolded through the Resurrection and prevailed through the work of the Holy Spirit in every saint throughout the generations, yesterday, today and forever

Bibliography

1. ‘On the Night of Nativity.’ Orthodox.net. Accessed September 10, 2019. <http://www.orthodox.net/nativity/on-night-of-nativity-ephraim-syrian.html>.
2. “كتاب أحد الشعانين.” St-Takla. Accessed March 27, 2020. <https://st-takla.org/Full-Free-Coptic-Books/His-Holiness-Pope-Shenouda-III-Books-Online/08-Ahad-El-Sha3aneen/Palm-Sunday-00-index.html>.
3. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

‘For we walk by faith, not by sight’ 2 Corinthians 5:7

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

- † Christ overcame the world on the Cross

My reaction

- † Am I trusting that He is my Hope in all circumstances?
- † Am I sowing the Hope in others?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord’s will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners

5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Armenian Orthodox Church in prayer

<u>الصلاة الربانية</u>	<u>قانون الايمان</u>
أبانا الذي في السموات	نؤمن بالله واحد، الأب ضابط الكل
ليبتقدس إسمك	خالق السماء والأرض، كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
ليأت ملكوتك	وبربٍ واحد يسوع المسيح، ابن الله الوحيد
لنكن مشيئتك	المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
كما في السماء	إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
كذلك على الأرض	مولود غير مخلوق، الذي له ولأب جوهر واحد
أعطنا خبرنا كفات يومنا	الذي به كان كل شيء، والذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن
واغفر لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا	أجل خلاصنا، نزل من السماء
كما نحن نغفر	وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء
لمن أخطأ وأسأء إلينا	وتأسس، وصُلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
ولا نُدخلنا في التجارب	وتألم ومات وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب،
لكن نجنا من الشرير	وصعد إلى السماء، وجلس عن يمين الله الأب، وسوف
أمين	يأتي بمجد عظيم ليدين الأحياء والأموات، والذي لا فناء
	لملكه
	وبالروح القدس، الرب المحيي، المنتبئ من الأب والإبن،
	الذي هو مع الأب والإبن، يُسجد له ويُمجّد
	الناتق بالأنبياء، وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية،
	ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
	ونترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي
	أمين