



LIGHTHOUSE

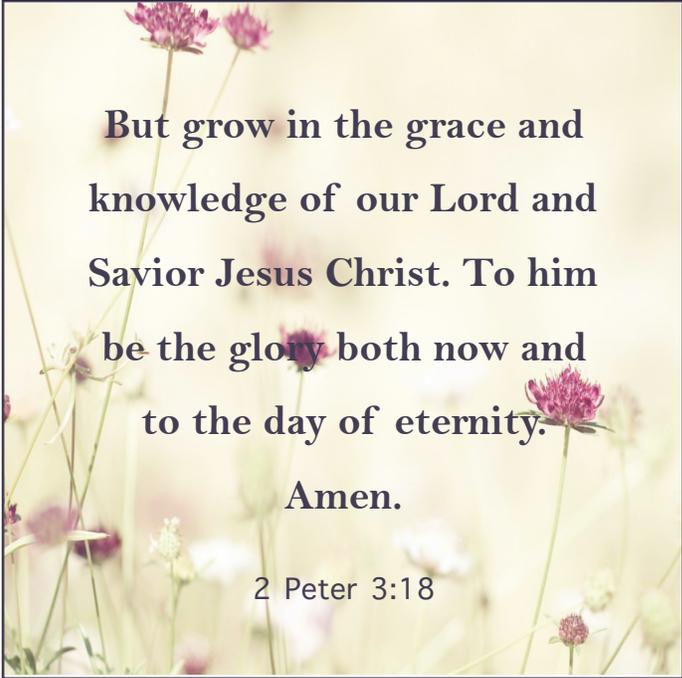
May 2020

Horeb Mar Thoma Church, Los Angeles

LUKE 12: 22-31

Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

“Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O You of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.



**But grow in the grace and
knowledge of our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ. To him
be the glory both now and
to the day of eternity.**

Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Due to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines, all
Worship Services, Sunday School classes, Prayer
Meetings, etc. will be conducted online for the
month of May.**

Please find more information on Page 5.



Dear Horeb Family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Let's thank and praise God for the grace and mercies we have been receiving from our Heavenly Father during these days. Though uncertainty surrounds us due to our present situation, we have been able to draw comfort and strength from our fellowship in the Lord. And though we have been physically isolated from each other, still we have been inspired towards new endeavors to connect with each other and support each other and others during this time. Our weekly tele-prayer meetings, online worship services, tele-Bible studies, and other fellowship meetings via Zoom have surely been a blessing, through all which God's Spirit has been at work. The efforts of our Office Bearers, Executive Committee and Technology Team members, especially the initiative of the Secretaries of our various organizations to coordinate, organize and help carry forward the ministry and mission of our parish, need to be appreciated at this time. And despite being unable to physically worship together, Passion Week this year turned out to be a very blessed and meaningful time as we were able to come together online for worship with the parishes of our Western Region as well as the Diocese. I especially commend our Horeb Sunday School for organizing the Virtual Easter Fest, which featured the participation of

students from GGUMC, CSI, and our Mar Thoma parishes in California.

Every year, the month of May brings us two important days -- we celebrate Mother's Day and commemorate Memorial Day. On Mother's Day, we honor our mothers out of gratitude for their love and care towards us. And on Memorial Day, we remember the dedicated service of those who gave their lives in defense of our country, its liberties and ideals. At the heart of both of these days, we find selflessness, struggle, and sacrifice for the good of others. Especially at this time, these attributes bring to our minds all those on the frontlines of the fight against this pandemic. Let's cover and uplift with our prayers our dear ones and all those working in healthcare and essential services. Let's continue to pray for all those who are affected and their families. Let's continue to pray for the healing of our world, of all of us.

As we continue to navigate the challenges brought about by the current circumstances, let's continue to trust in the mercies and grace of God who guides and comforts us and submit ourselves to the Lord for strength, courage, vision and inspiration to move forward and beyond for the glory of God.

With love and prayers,
Rev. Arun Samuel Varghese



This Easter, Parish Mission and Sunday School collectively donated 100 Easter bags and cards to Grandma's House of Hope.



Thank you to everyone who sponsored gift cards and all the children who handmade these beautiful and thoughtful cards. Grandma's House of Hope was excited to receive these in a much needed time.



Horeb's Virtual Easter Fest brought together several Sunday School children online to sing songs, hear from Arun Achen, and make two crafts to celebrate Easter. The children also participated in a session with Fibo Art along with other Sunday Schools of GGUMC, CSI, and other Mar Thoma parishes.



Am I My Brother's Keeper?

By Abiel Cholakath

During these daunting days of a worldwide pandemic and unprecedented global quarantine, it can be rather easy to make poor choices and be ungrateful. These past two months have been a struggle for the healthcare workers, store workers, the elderly, and the young. No matter what perspective you look at, COVID-19 has significantly altered our lifestyle. As a high school student, almost done with my sophomore year, I was looking forward to an eventful spring break. However, a life of quarantine gradually became the norm since March. There is so much news everywhere about Coronavirus, but I want to add a different perspective, specifically related to resistance to the wisdom of quarantine measures and guidelines instituted by the authorities.

In the Holy Scripture, the chapters, Matthew, Mark, and Luke describe the Temptation of Jesus by the Devil. After baptism by John the Baptist. Jesus was guided to the desert and fasted for forty days and forty nights. In the ***Gospel of Matthew chapter 4 verse 10***, Jesus states ***“Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”*** Jesus declares he will not test God’s patience, and strongly resists the urge to eat. Jesus’ resilience and resistance to temptation should be a trait that we as Christians should cultivate. We too should be obedient and maintain social distancing even though we are tempted to go to the beaches, movies, or any other risky public place. Jesus resisted temptation and was victorious. We too can emerge victorious against this pandemic if we resist this temptation.

In **Genesis 4:9**, the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” **Cain said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”** This statement symbolizes our reluctance to take responsibility of our fellow human beings. As Christians, we have a moral duty to be protectors, to be defenders and to look out for others, even if they are people we do not know. In this time of trial, it’s salient for everyone to stay indoors, because going out may put certain individuals like the elderly and healthcare workers at risk. Many heroic frontline professionals in various industries died in their line of duty due to COVID-19.

Many have the mindset that they are stuck at home. Instead look at it positively- You are not stuck at home; you are SAFE at home! As you live through an event that will go down in history, try to make your time worthwhile by keeping in touch with your family and friends using online platforms. Keep a daily schedule for yourself to stay organized, or create a journal to write down your feelings. Most importantly, spend your time praying to God for his strength, and for a speedy recovery to those who are ill or suffering right now. Just like Jesus who resisted Satan’s temptation, we should resist our urge to go outside, and we should be our brother’s keepers.



Young Family Fellowship sponsored pizza and wings for the healthcare workers at Kaiser Permanente in West Los Angeles. Let us continue to pray for all healthcare workers around the world.

MAY CALENDAR

All links to the Zoom worship services and teleconference info will be provided via email.

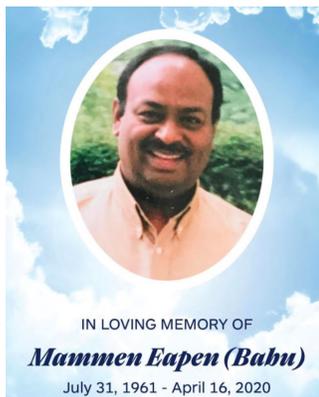
FRI MAY 1	7:00pm - 9:00pm	South Area Prayer - Zoom
SAT MAY 2	6:00pm - 8:00pm	Executive Committee Meeting - Zoom
SUN MAY 3	9:45am - 10:15am 10:15am - 12:00pm	Sunday School Assembly - Zoom Online Worship Service (English) - Zoom
TUE MAY 5	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Prayer Fellowship/Bible Study - Zoom
SAT MAY 9	6:00pm - 8:00pm	West Area Prayer - Zoom
SUN MAY 10	9:45am - 10:15am 10:15am - 12:00pm	Sunday School Assembly - Zoom (<i>Last Day of Sunday School</i>) Online Worship Service (English) - Zoom
TUE MAY 12	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Prayer Fellowship/Bible Study - Zoom
FRI MAY 15	7:00pm - 9:00pm	East Area Prayer - Zoom
SAT MAY 16	11:00am - 12:30pm	Sevika Sangham Meeting - Teleconference info via email
SUN MAY 17	10:00am - 12:00pm	Online Worship Service (English) - Zoom
TUE MAY 19	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Prayer Fellowship/Bible Study - Zoom
FRI MAY 22	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Parish-Wide Prayer - Teleconference info via email
SAT MAY 23	6:00pm - 7:30pm	Youth Fellowship Meeting - Zoom
SUN MAY 24	10:00am - 12:00pm	Online Worship Service (English) - Zoom
TUE MAY 26	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Prayer Fellowship/Bible Study - Zoom
SUN MAY 31	10:00am - 12:00pm	Online Worship Service (English) - Zoom

SUNDAY SCHOOL ZOOM SCHEDULE

Saturday 10:00am - 10:40am	Grade 7
Saturday 10:45am - 11:25am	Grade 9 & 10
Sunday 1:30pm - 2:10pm	Grade 5 & 6
Sunday 2:15pm - 2:55pm	Grade 8
Sunday 1:00pm - 2:00pm	Grade 11 & 12/Post Grad.

****MAY 10th - Last Day of Sunday School****

Please take a moment to make contributions to the church via Zelle; this includes Sunday offertory, birthday and wedding offertory, subscriptions, etc. Donations can quickly be made via your mobile bank app or through online banking. The church email for Zelle is treasurer@horebmtc.org or checks can be sent to our Treasurer, Abey Mathews.



Mammen Eapen (Babu), uncle of Sueann Parikh, passed away due to COVID-19 in Union New Jersey at age 58. Let us uphold the family in our prayers and ask our Almighty God to comfort them during this time of sorrow.

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