

# Echoes of Calvary

Weekly Newsletter - 9 | 8<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> Mar '2026

**Dear family in Christ,**

Grace and peace to you as we arrive at the **Fourth Week of Lent**. By this point in the Lenten journey, we may feel both the weight and the beauty of this season. Yet this week brings a gentle reminder: **Lent is not only about repentance—it is also about hope**. Even as we continue walking toward the cross, God allows us to glimpse the joy that lies ahead.

Traditionally, this week is sometimes called *Laetare Sunday*, meaning “*Rejoice*.” In the middle of our journey of reflection and repentance, the Church pauses to remember that God’s mercy is greater than our brokenness and His love is leading us toward new life.

## **Scripture of the Week**

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” — John 3:16

## **This Week’s Practice: Receiving God’s Mercy**

### **Lifestyle of Jesus: A Life of Compassion and Restoration**

Throughout His ministry, Jesus continually revealed the heart of the Father—a heart full of compassion, grace, and restoration. He healed the sick, welcomed the outcast, forgave sinners, and restored hope to those who had lost it. The message of this week reminds us that God’s love is the driving force behind the cross. Jesus did not come to condemn the world, but to save it. Even in our weakness and failure, God’s love continues to pursue us.

This week, we pause and ask:

- Do I truly believe that God loves me deeply and personally?
- Where in my life do I need to receive His mercy rather than hide in shame?
- How can I extend the same grace to others?

Lent reminds us that the path to the cross is also the path to redemption. The love of God is already at work, bringing light into every place of darkness.

## **Practical Ways to Continue Lent**

**Receive God's grace** – Reflect on John 3:16–17 and let God's love fill your heart.

**Practice gratitude** – Thank God each day for His goodness and mercy.

**Offer forgiveness** – Extend the grace you have received to someone who hurt you.

**Encourage someone** – A kind word or small act of care can bring hope.

**Notice God's work** – Look for His blessings in everyday moments.

**Rejoice in His love** – Rest in the joy of being loved by God.

### **Upcoming Events to add in your daily prayers:**

- Family Retreat – 19<sup>th</sup> Mar'26
- Youth Retreat – 21<sup>st</sup> Mar'26
- Get-together, New Delhi – 26<sup>th</sup> Mar'26
- Get-together, Mumbai – 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Mar'26
- Wednesday Fasting Prayer — 7:00 PM
- Friday Fasting Prayer — 7:00 PM
- Sunday services – 8am and 3pm onwards
- Children's Global Sunday school — Saturday, 7pm onwards on zoom

### **Events that happened in 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Mar'26 to seek the fruit of the Word sown in your daily prayers (8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Mar'26):**

#### ➤ **Sunday Worship on 07<sup>th</sup> Mar'26:**

Meditated on Revelation 8,9 chapters, and 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter from 2 letter of Peter which emphasises on trumpet judgments that bring disasters and suffering upon the earth as warnings during the end times, showing the seriousness of God's judgment and calling people to repent. Although Christ's return may seem delayed, it is because God is patient and wants people to turn from sin and be saved. Together, these chapters teach that God's judgment will certainly come, but His patience now is giving humanity time to repent before the Day of the Lord arrives. Below are some points for us to follow:

- ✓ Revelation 8–9 describes the opening of the seventh seal with silence in heaven, followed by the sounding of trumpets that bring severe judgments on the earth. Fire burns part of the earth, the star Wormwood makes waters bitter, and terrifying locust-like creatures torment those without God's seal.
- ✓ Even after these judgments, many people refuse to repent of idolatry, violence, and sin. These events serve as warnings meant to call humanity back to God before the final judgment.
- ✓ God does not desire the destruction of sinners but their repentance. Scripture teaches that the Lord is patient, delaying judgment so that people may turn from evil and receive life.

- ✓ True security is not found in wealth, bunkers, or worldly preparations, but in Jesus Christ. Those who believe in Him are protected spiritually, and the second death has no power over them.
- ✓ Believers are engaged in spiritual warfare, not against people but against forces of darkness. Through Christ they are more than conquerors and are called to stand firm in faith.
- ✓ The Kingdom of God is a place of perfect peace, righteousness, and joy where Jesus reigns as King. To enter this kingdom, a person must be born again and experience a transformed heart.
- ✓ Jesus will return suddenly, and only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will share in eternal life. Therefore the most important question is whether one is ready for His coming.
- ✓ Believers are called to trust God, live as citizens of heaven, and share the Gospel with others so that many may be saved before the Lord's return.
- ✓ Daily prayer, Bible study, and fellowship strengthen faith and prepare believers to endure trials. Through repentance, devotion, and obedience, people can live under God's protection and grace.
- ✓ The message is urgent: repent, believe in Jesus, and live faithfully, for the world will pass away but God's kingdom and His promises remain forever.

### ➤ **Mid-week Worship on 11<sup>th</sup> Mar'26:**

Meditated on Psalm 107 which is a song reminding people to **thank God for His mercy and to remember that He rescues those who call on Him in times of distress**. Below are some points for us to follow:

- ✓ Begin building a life of prayer by spending at least **10 minutes daily with God**, gradually developing the habit of constant communication. Set aside **morning and evening time for prayer** and learn to pray in every situation with perseverance as taught in Scripture.
- ✓ The **Holy Spirit helps believers pray**, especially when they do not know what to say. A life filled with the Spirit strengthens prayer and deepens the relationship with God.
- ✓ True prayer requires **perseverance and discipline**. Like missionaries who prayed for months before seeing results, believers must continue praying even when answers seem delayed, trusting God for breakthrough.
- ✓ People often turn to God only in times of trouble, yet the Lord desires **constant fellowship**, not just emergency prayers. Prayer is the lifeline that brings strength, guidance, and peace during life's struggles.
- ✓ Gratitude is essential in the Christian life. Just as only one of the ten healed lepers returned to thank Jesus, believers must **remember and thank God for His blessings**, because forgetting His goodness grieves His heart.
- ✓ Psalm 107 reminds us that when people **cry out to God in their distress**, He rescues them from hunger, darkness, storms, and despair. God's mercy delivers those who sincerely call upon Him.
- ✓ Forgetting God's blessings leads to discouragement and spiritual dryness, but **remembering His works renews faith, purpose, and joy**. Recounting His goodness strengthens our trust in Him.
- ✓ God remains faithful to His promises and is always ready to forgive those who confess their sins. Though people fall many times, **God's mercy restores and transforms those who return to Him**.
- ✓ Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and believers are called to keep their eyes on Him rather than on circumstances. Through prayer, worship, and faith, God strengthens His people to live as His witnesses in the world.

## ➤ **Fasting Prayer, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Mar'26:**

We meditated on Numbers 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter which shows that God's blessing over His people cannot be changed, and His word is always true and faithful. Let us prayerfully reflect on the following points:

- ✓ Join in prayer and share your burdens with the community so that believers can intercede for one another. Whether the need is healing, family struggles, or urgent crises, bringing requests to the church invites collective prayer and encouragement.
- ✓ Believers are urged not to delay in spiritual matters. Just as missing a flight causes long delays, postponing prayer and obedience can lead to lost opportunities and spiritual weakness. Faithfulness and discipline are essential for growth.
- ✓ Dr. Jayapaul's ministry continues to spread the Gospel through preaching, literature, social media, and outreach programs across India, bringing the message of Christ to people who have little access to the Bible.
- ✓ Scripture warns believers to maintain purity because the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Sexual immorality and adultery bring deep consequences, while faithfulness within marriage and self-control honor God.
- ✓ The Bible also cautions against idolatry and false teachings. Believers must test everything by Scripture and avoid practices that lead them away from God's truth and holiness.
- ✓ Marriage is presented as God's provision for those who cannot remain celibate, while some choose singleness to dedicate themselves fully to serving the Lord. Both paths require commitment and faithfulness.
- ✓ Christ's sacrifice on the cross provides forgiveness, redemption, and freedom from curses caused by sin. Through repentance and faith, believers receive new life and strength to overcome temptation.
- ✓ Families are encouraged to pray together at home, confess sins, and support one another spiritually. United prayer strengthens faith and invites God's guidance into daily life.
- ✓ Believers are called to submit to God's will in every area of life—career, family, and ministry—trusting that His plans are better than their own desires.
- ✓ Ultimately, the message centers on focusing on the cross of Jesus, living in holiness, persevering in prayer, and trusting God's protection and guidance while walking faithfully toward His kingdom.

**May the Lord teach you His ways and strengthen you to walk**

**as Jesus walked! Amen!**

**With love,  
Dr. N. Jayapaul,  
Calvary Church Chennai.**