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passing from unbelief to faith means that we have "passed from death to life," we should not be surprised to find that "the world hates us." Anyone who has not "passed from death to life" is incapable of loving those who have departed from death's dark dwelling place to enter a dwelling "made of living stones" and filled with the light of life. Jesus "laid down his life for us;" so we too should lay down our lives, I will not say for him, but for ourselves and also, surely, for those who will be helped by the example of our martyrdom.

Now is the time for Christians to rejoice, since Scripture says that "we should rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering trains us to endure with patience, patient endurance makes us pleasing to God, and being pleasing to God gives us ground for a hope that will not be disappointed." Only let "the love of God be poured forth in our hearts through the Holy Spirit."

"The more we share in the sufferings of Christ, the more we share, through him, in his consolation." We should be extremely eager to share in Christ's sufferings and to let them be multiplied in us if we desire the superabundant consolation that will be given to those who mourn. This consolation will not perhaps be the same for all, for if it were, Scripture would not say: "The more we share in the sufferings of Christ, the more we share in his consolation." Sharing in his consolation will be proportionate to our sharing in his suffering. We learn this from one who could say with all confidence: "We know that as you share in the sufferings, so you will share in the consolation as well."

God says through the prophet: "At an acceptable time I heard you; on the day of salvation I helped you." What time could be more acceptable than when, for our fidelity to God in Christ, we are made a public spectacle and led away under guard, not defeated but triumphant?

In Christ and with Christ the martyrs disarm the principalities and powers and share in his triumph over them, for their share in Christ's sufferings makes them sharers also in the mighty deeds those sufferings accomplished. What could more appropriately be called the day of salvation than the day of such a glorious departure from this world? But I entreat you "not to give offense to anyone, so that our ministry may not be blamed. Be very patient and show in every way that you are servants of God." Say: "And now, what do I wait for? Is it not the Lord?"

-Irenaeus of Lyons, Bishop and Theologian

#### SAINTS:

Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland. 17 March. Patrick was born in Celtic Cornwall around the year 390 and was captured by Irish raiders when he was sixteen years old and taken to Ireland as a slave. After six years, he escaped and seems to have gone to the Continent. He eventually found his way back to his own family, where his previously-nominal Christian faith grew and matured. He returned to Gaul and was there trained as a priest and much influenced by the form of monasticism evolving under Martin of Tours. When he was in his early forties, he returned to Ireland as a bishop, and made his base at Armagh, which became the centre of his See. He evangelised the people of the land by walking all over the island, gently bringing men and women to a knowledge of Christ. Although he faced fierce opposition and possible persecution, he continued his missionary journeys. Despite being unsuccessful in his attempts to establish the diocesan system he had experienced in Gaul, his monastic foundations proved to be the infrastructure required to maintain the faith after his death, which occurred on this day in the year 460.

Joseph of Nazareth. 19 March. In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph is depicted as a good man, a working carpenter, who trusted in God. He received God's messenger who shared with him God's will for him and for Mary, to whom he was engaged to be married. Luke's gospel describes how Joseph took the new-born child as if he were his own. He was with Mary when, on the fortieth day after the birth, Jesus was presented in the Temple, 'where every first-born male is designated as holy to the Lord'. The adoption of Jesus by Joseph also established Jesus in the descent of David, to accord with the prophecy that Israel's deliverer would be of the House and lineage of David.

#### VESTRY 2022

- Romeo Dela Cruz Senior Warden
- · Vicky Yu Junior Warden/Altar Guild
- · Leslie Stokes Vestry Secretary
- · Harry Gue Treasurer
- Rod Mabiasen Jr. Asst. Treasurer/ Children & Youth
- · Phil Thoburn Buildings & Grounds

- Simon Bewlay Membership
- Andy Malpass Outreach
- Ruth Mangaoang Children & Youth
- William Njiondo French Congregation Rep.
- Heritier Kalonda French Congregation Rep.
- · Edison Yap Corporate Secretary

### Psalm 27: 11-18

# Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Hearken unto my voice, O LORD, when I cry unto thee; \* have mercy upon me, and hear me. My heart hath talked of thee, Seek ye my face: \* Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

## Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

O hide not thou thy face from me, \* nor cast thy servant away in displeasure. Thou hast been my succour; \* leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

When my father and my mother forsake me, \* the LORD taketh me up.

## Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Teach me thy way, O LORD, \* and lead me in the right way, because of mine enemies. Deliver me not over into the will of mine adversaries: \* for there are false witnesses risen up against me, and such as speak wrong.

## Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

I should utterly have fainted, \* but that I believe verily to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. O tarry thou the LORD's leisure; \* be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart; and put thou thy trust in the LORD.

Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

#### THIS WEEK:

### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

March 17, Thursday. Community Mass, Exodus 3:1-15 9:00 a.m., Chapel Psalm 103: 1-4

Psalm 103: 1-4, 6-7, 10-11 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9