



Սուրբ Սարգիս Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական

Եկեղեցի

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St. Sarkis Armenian Church Santa Clarita

Շաբաթաթերթիկ-Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Bible Reading

### **Galatians 6:14-18**

**14** May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which<sup>[a]</sup> the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. **15** Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. **16** Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to<sup>[b]</sup> the Israel of God.

**17** From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

**18** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

### **John 3:13-21**

**13** No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.<sup>[a]</sup> **14** Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,<sup>[b]</sup> **15** that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”<sup>[c]</sup>

**16** 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. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the

world, but to save the world through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. **19** This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. **20** Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. **21** But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God

### **Pastoral thoughts**

Each and every time when we talk about the Holy Cross, it brings us new strength with new confidence that God leads this world with His Almighty Will. What is the crucifixion? It is one thing for man and another thing for God. Even after the Lord’s crucifixion, which changed the whole philosophy and understanding about the cross, it remained the same in minds and thoughts of humanity. Understanding is nothing if there is no faith. We can’t explain and describe what Jesus did for us on the Cross. There is no way to understand what kind of tortures passed through Jesus Christ to bring salvation for mankind.

On the way to the crucifixion, Jesus made a very remarkable statement. A great number of the people followed Him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for Him. Jesus turned to them and said; “Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children...For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?” (Luke 23)

The Bible tells us how unsparingly they tortured Jesus and sacrificed him on the Cross. Willingly going to the crucifixion, Jesus showed unprecedented humility which had been predicted in the Old Testament. Prophet Isaiah who lived and prophesied approximately

740 years before Jesus Christ, said about the Lord's crucifixion; "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." (Isaiah 53:7)

Many people before Jesus Christ had been condemned to crucifixion which was a judgment against their deeds, fair or unfair and they all died on the cross. Jesus changed the understanding about the Cross which hasn't been changed yet in our minds. Such a humility perpetuated by our Lord opens our outlook in front of God's miracles, where our crucified and resurrected Savior, spreading his arms is saying: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

With such an understanding we need to celebrate the Exultation of the Holy Cross. This celebration tells us about the triumph of our Lord whose last words were; "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

With Love of Christ,  
Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan  
Parish Priest

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