**SATURDAY DECEMBER 10 – SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT [A]**

**But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him but did to him whatever they pleased. So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands."**

**All the old prophecies receive their perfect truth in the moment of their fulfilment in history. Before the conceiving, everyone can give every interpretation. After its fulfilment, everyone is obliged to accept the truth that has been revealed by history. There is no return of Elijah in his body of flesh on our earth. However, there is the return of the Spirit of Elijah. But also the Spirit of Elijah is not actually the Spirit of God, it is the Spirit of Christ Jesus given to John the Baptist when he was still in the womb of Elizabeth, pouring out from the heart of the Virgin Mary, though. Here are the words of the Angel Gabriel and its fulfilment in the house of Zechariah:**

**“Once when he was serving as priest in his division's turn before God, according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense. Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of (the) Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord." Then Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel said to him in reply, "I am Gabriel, who stand before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news. But now you will be speechless and unable to talk until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time." (Lk 1,8-20).**

**“During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Lk 1,39-45). The prophecy of Malachi – “Remember the law of Moses my servant, which I enjoined him on Horeb, The statutes and ordinances for all Israel. Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, Before the day of the LORD comes, the great and terrible day, To turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the land with doom. Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, Before the day of the LORD comes, the great and terrible day. (Mal 3,22-24) – must be read and understood in the light of the most powerful revelation that comes to us by the Gospel.**

**Here again a further light that comes to us from the Holy Spirit through the mouth of Zechariah: “And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God by which the daybreak from on high will visit us to shine on those who sit in darkness and death's shadow, to guide our feet into the path of peace." (Lk 1,76-79). It is not Elijah who comes back. It is John the Baptist who comes to prepare the way to the Lord with all the power and the force of the Spirit of Christ Jesus. Christ Jesus has given him his Spirit so that John prepares the way to Him, to Him who is the Messiah who must come for the salvation.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 17,10-13**

**Then the disciples asked him, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" He said in reply, "Elijah will indeed come and restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him but did to him whatever they pleased. So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.**

**Jesus says to the disciples that Elijah has comes, but he has not been recognized. Not only. They have made what they wanted of him. They have killed him beheaded him. The same fate will be of the Son of man. He too will not be recognized. He too will have to suffer because of them. He will not be beheaded, though. He will be nailed on a cross. But it will precisely be his unsayable suffering, that is the suffering of the Servant of the Lord, that will attest that He is the Righteous Suffering, the Righteous of God, his Messiah. If Christ Jesus had not been crucified, no prophecy would not have been fulfilled and He would not certainly been the Messiah of God. Messiah of God is the one in whom all the Scriptures will be fulfilled. Now the prophecies about the suffering are essence and substance of the life of the Messiah of the Lord. Even the suffering of each of his disciple is substance and essence of his mission of disciple. A disciple of Christ Jesus without crucifixion either spiritual or also physical is not a true disciple of Jesus. Virgin Mary, Pierced in soul, make us true disciples of your Son.**