**MONDAY MARCH 21 – THIRD WEEK OF LENT [C]**

**Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."**

**The mission of Jesus is not that of performing miracles. Instead, it is that of teaching every man the way to be the one who fulfils every miracle both for his salvation and for the salvation of his brothers. To understand this truth of Jesus, it is a holy thing to let ourselves be helped by the Apostle Paul. Here is what he says about his mission: “I give thanks (to God) that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say you were baptized in my name. (I baptized the household of Stephanas also; beyond that I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with the wisdom of human eloquence, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning. The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the learning of the learned I will set aside." Where is the wise one? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made the wisdom of the world foolish? For since in the wisdom of God the world did not come to know God through wisdom, it was the will of God through the foolishness of the proclamation to save those who have faith. For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.” (1Cor 1, 13-25) The Apostle Paul is sent to preach Christ Jesus and Christ Crucified. The faith in Christ and in Christ Crucified ontologically changes the life of every man. From nature of sin, in the water of the baptism, it turns it into nature of light, truth, justice, peace.**

**Here is not the mission the Father has entrusted to Jesus:** **"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." (Lk 4, 18-19) Jesus is sent to read every man the decree written by the Father for every man. We can thus formulate this decree: “Men of earth, children of Abraham and children of Adam, whoever believes in the name of Christ Jesus, the Crucified who is the Risen, will be delivered from his spiritual poorness of sin and of death, will be delivered from the slavery of the prince of the world, will be delivered from his spiritual blindness and will receive the true sight to see God and his mystery of grace and of truth. All the oppressed will be set free. Always on the condition that they believe in the name of Jesus Christ, the Crucified who is the Risen. Always in the name of Christ Jesus and in the faith in Him, will all their sins be forgotten. For those who believe there will be a universal jubilee. None of their trespasses will be considered.”**

**The miracles Jesus fulfils have one only purpose: helping the birth of the true faith in Him, sent by God to proclaim this decree of reconciliation, liberation, healing, forgiveness. Being Jesus true prophet of his Father and sent to proclaim this decree, it is in this decree that everyone must believe. This decree is then fulfilled through the faith in Him and faith consists in accepting each of his Word as true Word of God. The decree, too, must be accepted as true decree of God and not of Christ Jesus. Christ Jesus must then make the fulfilment of this decree possible and He will make it possible by offering the Father his life in sacrifice and in holocaust for the forgiveness of every man. Here is how this truth is revealed by the Apostle Paul:** “**And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.** **Working together, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says: "In an acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” (2Cor 5,18-6,2).**

**Let us read from the text of Lk 4,24-30**

**And he said, "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But he passed through the midst of them and went away.**

**The decree was not proclaimed once for everyone. This decree must be proclaimed day after day. Not only is it to be proclaimed, everyone must work to give it true fulfilment in every heart. This might happen if everyone will fulfil the mission entrusted to him with every obedience.**