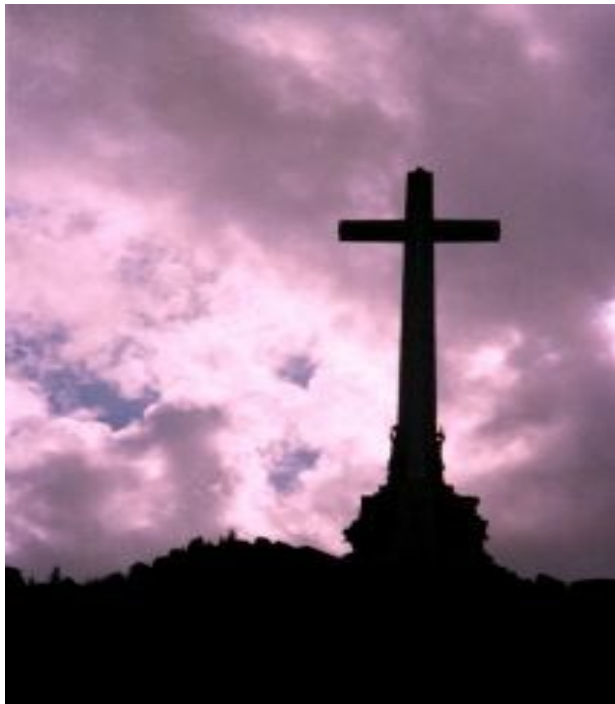


# ST. JOHN'S MAR THOMA CHURCH

90-37 213 STREET, QUEENS VILLAGE, NY 11428

## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP



Worship — Sunday 9:00 am | Sunday School — After Worship

NEWS LETTER— MARCH 2015  
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[www.stjohnsmtcny.org](http://www.stjohnsmtcny.org)

Vicar: Rev. Joji K. Mathew — [jojimathewachen@gmail.com](mailto:jojimathewachen@gmail.com)

### OFFICE BEARERS / BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR 2015

<b>Vicar / President</b>	<b>Rev. Joji K. Mathew</b> Church — 718-468-4141	<b>718-465-2358 (Par.)</b> <b>718-450-2869 (Mobile)</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	Mr. Thomas M. George	631-462-1648
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr. Beji T. Joseph (bejitjoseph@aol.com)	516-433-0386
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<b>Accountant</b>	Mr. Sanu Mathew	646-261-7017
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<b>Dio. Assembly</b>	Mr. Eapen K. George Mr. Saji Thomas Mr. Roy C. Thomas	718-343-0505 516-775-1512 718-347-0346
<b><u>Organizations:</u></b>		
<b>Choir</b>	Mr. Samuel Thomas	516-216-5051
<b>Edavaka Mission</b>	Mr. C.K Mathai	516-437-0979
<b>Senior Citizens</b>	Mr. C. V. Simonkutty	516-742-3520
<b>Sevika Sangham</b>	Mrs. Aleyamma John	516-233-1128
<b>Sunday School</b>	Mr. Abraham T. Abraham	718-343-5465
<b>Young Families</b>	Mr. Melvin John	718-343-0002
<b>Youth Fellowship</b>	Mr. Bently Joseph	516-643-4212
<b>Yuvajana Sakhyam</b>	Mr. Jinu Zacharia	516-974-9980
<b><u>Prayer Group Representatives:</u></b>		
<b>Bellerose</b>	Mr. Munna V. Sam	718-343-5036
<b>Eastern Long Island</b>	Mr. John K. Mathew	516-437-0956
<b>Elmont / West Hemp.</b>	Mr. Santhosh Philip	516-445-4935
<b>Floral Park / Glen Oaks</b>	Mr. M. Thomas	718-343-7663
<b>Garden City Park</b>	Mr. Mathew P. George	516-742-3686
<b>New Hyde Park East</b>	Mr. John Mathew	516-233-1848
<b>New Hyde Park West</b>	Mr. Stanley Pappachan	516-352-0810
<b>Palli Bhagom</b>	Mr. T. M. Thomas	718-217-1740
<b><u>Auditors:</u></b>		
	Mr. Philip Oommen	718-776-2585
	Mr. Easow Mathunny	718-360-1808
<b><u>Youth Chaplain:</u></b>	Rev. V. M. Mathew	516-437-0425

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

### **Dearly Beloveds in Christ**

Greetings to you in the name of our God and savior Jesus Christ  
We are entered into a great season of Lent. Lent is a discipline and a way to discipleship. It is a call to have an alternative perspective in life. It is not the rejection of certain things for certain days but it is transcendence to certain habits. In Eastern Churches 40 days of Lent are celebrated as a commemoration of the forty days of fasting of Jesus in the wilderness of Judea (Mat 4:2, Mk. 1:13, Lk. 4:2) and from 40th Friday, 10 days to Easter are set apart to meditate on passion, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. So Lent includes both meditation and disciplining of life. It is a discipline made against the greed, lust –satiating and aggressive ambition of consumerist society. This disciplining will help us to offer something to the world, rather than always be in the receiving end. The wounded world around us needs healing. Lent is a time of reconciliation with the whole creation and dedication of oneself to become good human beings within the family and community. It is a challenge to us to prepare ourselves to take up the cross and follow Christ with a sense of complete repentance. Taking cross does not mean the golden ornament we have in our neck. Cross reminds us about the way of life led by our Savior. If we cannot follow Christ through our way of life, our Lent celebrations will become meaningless. Lent prayers and meditations during this month will help us to discipline our life to be controlled by the will of God in the midst of the worldly attraction of certain desires, lust & selfish motives.

As we are marching through Jubilee celebration of our Parish, March month is important for planning according to the will and purpose of God. Parish and organizations should prepare for the meaningful celebration of the Silver Jubilee. All celebrations should be our response to the Almighty God who guided our Parish throughout these years.

I appreciate the office bearers, Church facility maintenance team, executive committee members and all other members of the parish who participated and lend a hand in the process of restoration of the Church building. Let us fully utilize the beautiful Church for the glory of God. I request all the members of the parish to be regular partakers of Holy Communion and be blessed by the grace of God and fellowship of the people of God.

**May God bless you all.**

**In Prayer**

**Joji K. Mathew Achen**

## YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

### **'I am crucified'**

Once again we are in a Lenten season to observe the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. 'Jesus is crucified for us' is a soothing and ornamental statement to many of us. 'Jesus brought salvation to us on the cross and paid the price of our sins' are the truths widely used and misused without understanding the bidding that we receive from the cross. For many Jesus is a forgiving machine and uses the grace that is pouring out from the cross for wrong reasons. But this concept became a 'cheap grace' for many as Dietrich Bonhoeffer explains in His Book 'The Cost of discipleship'. In the first chapter he says 'cheap grace means grace sold in the market like cheapjack's wares, justification of sin without justification of the sinner, preaching forgiveness without requiring repentance' (P 43-44)

Apostle Paul 'the architect and builder of the church' considers Cross as the foundation for his theology. While writing his letters Paul was confident and firm in affirming the importance of making the cross as the focal point. "But we preach Christ crucified.." (1 Cor. 1:23), "I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2). When he was writing to the Galatians, he is trying to understand and make his readers understand a different perspective on the cross. Many are interested looking at the cross from an objective point of view but for Paul cross is not an object but it is a subject and he wants to be crucified with Christ. So Paul considers Cross not only as a comforting experience or as forgiving experience but as something that radically transforms a human being.

Paul is talking about three 'crucifixions' that happened in his life as being crucified with Christ; I am crucified with Christ (2:20), "...crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (5:24) and I am crucified to the world and world is crucified to me (6:14). When a person accepts Jesus as his/her saviour, he /she accept to be crucified with Him. Paul explains when he accepts the crucified Christ there are three things happening in his life; 1. His self is crucified. That is why he said "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." Dying of the 'self' and living with Christ is the experience of crucifixion. Many of us accept Christ but still live under the control of the self then crucifixion has no meaning in us other than considering it as an object of forgiveness. 2. Secondly Paul is saying when I am crucified with Christ my flesh will be crucified. Being under the bondage of the flesh with all its passions and desires is another hindrance to accept the cross of Jesus. So Paul was ready to crucify his self with all its passions for the sake of Christ and His cross. 3. Thirdly Paul says he is crucified to the world and the world is crucified to him. His affinity to the world is crucified after meeting Jesus. His priority is then is Jesus' cross and not the attractions of the world.

In this Lenten season let us be crucified with our lord to crucify our self, our flesh and the world. Christ's cross invites us to be crucified with Him. Let us be crucified.

V. M. Mathew Achen, Youth Chaplain  
194 Bregman Ave, New Hyde Park, NY  
516-437-0425

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### March 1st- Sunday Malayalam Holy Communion at 9:00 AM

**Life Saving Faith (3rd Sunday in Lent)**

Praise & Worship: By Sunday School

Sermon: **Mr. Alvin Lukose** Prayer: **Ms. Safia Thomas**

Lessons: 1st Lesson **2 Kings. 4:1-7** **Mr. Abraham Thomas**

2nd Lesson **Acts. 5:12-16** **Mrs. Rachel Philip**

Lay Assistant: **Mr. K. Idichandi**

Epistle: **Heb. 11:1-12** Gospel: **St. Luke 5:17-26**

### March. 8th Sunday English Holy Communion at 9:00 AM

**Persistence in Prayer (4th Sunday in Lent)**

Praise & Worship: By Sunday School

Sermon: **Mr. Jonathan David** Prayer: **Ms. Ria Varghese**

Lessons: 1st Lesson **2 Kings. 20:1-10** **Mr. Rohit Abraham**

2nd Lesson **1 Thes. 5:12-22** **Ms. Sharon Varghese**

Lay Assistant: **Mr. Binu Daniel**

Epistle: **Jud. 1:17-23** Gospel: **St. Mark. 7:24-30**

### March. 15th- Sunday — Malayalam Holy Communion at 9.00 AM

**True Worship that Liberates (5th Sunday in Lent)**

Praise & Worship: By Youth Fellowship

Sermon: **Mr. Shawn Zachariah** Prayer: **Mr. Jerryl Abraham**

Lessons: 1st Lesson **Exo. 3:11-18** **Mr. Boney Joseph**

2nd Lesson **Rev. 14:1-7** **Mrs. Jerry Joseph**

Lay Assistant: **Mr. Santhosh Philip**

Epistle **Acts. 16:25-34** Gospel **St. Luke. 18:35-43**

### March 22nd - Sunday -English Divine Service By Young Family at 9.00 am

**A new Vision of the Messianic Age (36th Sunday)**

Lessons: 1st Lesson **Deu. 18:15-22** (TBA)

2nd Lesson **1 Pet. 4:12-19** (TBA)

Lay Assistant: (TBA)

Epistle: **2 Cor. 1:3-11** Gospel: **St. Luke. 18:35-43**

### March. 27th- 40th Friday — Malayalam Holy Communion at 7.00 PM

**40th Friday - Lord who overcomes the temptations**

Lessons: 1st Lesson Num. 21:1-9 2nd Lesson Heb. 12:1-13

Lay Assistant: (TBA)

Epistle 1 Pet. 1:13-22 Gospel **St. Mat. 4:1-11**

### March. 29th- Sunday — Malayalam Holy Communion at 9.00 AM

**Hosanna: New King in the Temple (Theological Seminary Day)**

Praise & Worship: By Sunday School

Sermon: **Ms. Ann Saji** Prayer: **Mr. Albert Sanu**

Lessons: 1st Lesson **Isa. 56:1-8** (TBA)

2nd Lesson **1 Cor. 3:16-23** (TBA)

Lay Assistant: (TBA)

Epistle **2 Cor. 6:11-17** Gospel **St. Mat. 21:1-17**

## PRAYER GROUP & ORGANIZATIONS

### AREA PRAYER MEETINGS

<b>Bellerose</b>  <b>(To Be Announced)</b>	<b>Eastern Long Island</b> <b>March 28th Saturday 7.00 PM</b> Mr. John T. Varkey 127 South Drive, Manhasset Hills <b>Tel# 516-233-1128</b>
<b>Elmont &amp; West Hempstead</b> <b>(To Be Announced)</b>	<b>Floral Park &amp; Glen Oaks</b> <b>(To Be Announced)</b>

**Garden City Park**  
**March 14th Saturday 7.00 PM**  
 Mr. Mathew P. George  
 415 Horton Hgwy, Mineola, NY  
**Tel # 516-742-3686**

**New Hyde Park East**  
**March 7th Saturday 7:00PM**  
 Mr. Abraham Thomas  
 107 south drive, Manhasset hill  
**Tel # 516-775-1437**

<b>New Hyde Park West</b>  <b>March 22nd Sunday 7:00PM</b> Mr. Abraham Thomas 515 N 10th Street, New Hyde Park <b>Tel # 516-354-1947</b>	<b>Palli Bhagom</b>  <b>(To Be Announced)</b>
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### EDAVAKA MISSION PRAYERS

Mar 6th Friday 7.00 PM At the church as fasting prayer

Mar 13th Friday 7.00 PM Prayer meeting At the residence of  
 Mr. Sajimon P. George  
 81 Fifth St, Garden City Pk  
 Tel # 516-248-1640

Mar 20th Friday 7.00 PM Prayer meeting At the church

Mar 27th Friday 7.00 PM 40th Friday –Holy Communion Service

### CHOIR

**Malayalam Choir practice will be held every Sunday immediately after Holy Communion.**

## SEVIKA SANGHOM PRAYER MEETINGS

Mar: 4th 10.00 AM <b>(Wednesday)</b>	At The Church	
Mar: 11th 10.00 AM <b>(Wednesday)</b>	Mrs. Leelamma Georgekutty 43 Allen Street Herricks, NY	516 741 3082
Mar: 14th , 10.00 AM <b>(Saturday)</b>	North East Regional Sevika Sanghom Conference at Our Church	
Mar: 19th 10.00 AM <b>(Thursday)</b>	Mrs. Anchamma Mathew 83-43 259 Street Floral Park	718 347 3488
<b>March 25th 10.00am (Wednesday)</b>	Mrs Chellamma Chacko 80-14 237 Street Bellerose	718 776 8103

## SENIOR CITIZENS FELLOWSHIP

**Health / Recreational Program:** Canceled for the month of March  
**Cottage Prayer Meeting (To be Announced)**

## YUVAJANA SAKHYAM

### Cottage Meeting

**On Mar 15th Sunday at 2.00 PM at the residence of**  
Mr. Binny John  
92 Franklin Ave, New Hyde Pk, NY      **Tel # 516-830-5352**

## YOUNG FAMILIES FELLOWSHIP

### Fellowship Meeting

**On Mar 8th Sunday At 1.30 PM At the residence of**  
Mrs. & Mr. Ritchie Philip  
511 North 2nd St, New Hyde Pk, NY 11040      **Tel # 718-776-2585**

## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Mar 6th Friday @ 7.00 PM Prayer meeting at the Church

## BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH

**Happy Birthday. May God continue to bless the work of  
your hands and grant you continued favor in your life.**

John Zachariah Oommen	1	Jeremy George	16
Rohit Mathew	1	Davis John	17
Noble Philip	1	Aaron John George	17
Mariamamma Jose	1	Elizabeth K. George	17
<b>Offer prayer and thanksgiving on</b>			
<b>Mar: 1st, 2015</b>			
Elizabeth T. Sam	2	Josh P. Thomas	17
Sayu Biju	2	Lizzykutty K. Abraham	18
Jessica Mary Varughese	2	Chacko K. Thomas	18
Thomas M. George	3	Stefi Mathew	19
Bea Marie Isaac	3	Nigel Lyju Oommen	19
Annamma Mathews	4	Justin Joseph	19
Anita Simon	4	Anil T. Andrews	19
Jasmin Mary Varughese	4	Binu Daniel	19
Sosamma John	5	Biji J. Jacob	21
Christopher Sam Babu	5	Valsamma George	21
Sharon S. Varughese	6	Elizabeth Philip	22
Manuel Mathew	6	Ann Rachel John	22
Sofia Mary Thomas	6	Nisa S Varghese	23
Marilyn N. Abraham	7	Leelamma Mathai	25
Akkil Alex Kurien	7	Jinu Zachariah	25
Rachel Thomas	8	Annamma J. Skariah	26
<b>Offer prayer and thanksgiving on</b>			
<b>Mar: 8th, 2015</b>			
Jess J Chacko	9	Shylon Mathew	27
Georgekutty Chacko	10	Sophie Elizabeth Abraham	27
Suby Mathew	10	Riva Eapen	28
Thankamma Xavier	10	Anil Thomas	28
Austin Sanu Mathew	10	Brendon John	29
Saju Joseph Thomas	10	<b>Offer prayer and thanksgiving on</b>	
Tini Sara Titus	10	<b>Mar: 29th, 2015</b>	
Susan Thomas	11	Sheela J. Mathew	30
Benjamin Thomas Mathew	11	Achamma John	30
T. C. David	13	Susan Varghese	31
Lisa David	13	Philip K. Thomas	31
Justin T. Sam	13	<b>Offer prayer and thanksgiving on</b>	
Monsey George	13	<b>Apr: 5th, 2015</b>	
Joel P. Thomas	14		
Sylas Thomas Chacko	14		
Anna Alexander	15		
Jane S. Mathew	15		
<b>Offer prayer and thanksgiving on</b>			
<b>Mar: 15th, 2015</b>			



## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES FOR MARCH

### A Very Happy Wedding Anniversary to all.

Jessy & Thomas C. Mathew 1  
**Offer prayer and thanksgiving on Mar: 1st, 2015**  
 Remi & Saji Thankachan 8  
**Offer prayer and thanksgiving on Mar: 8th, 2015**  
 Mini & Abu Varghese 12  
**Offer prayer and thanksgiving on Mar: 15th, 2015**  
 Anna & Alexander P. Eapen23  
**Offer prayer and thanksgiving on Mar: 29th, 2015**

### St. John's MTC Silver Jubilee Committee 2015

**Gen: Cnvr. Mr. C.V Simonkutty 516-742-3520**

#### Program Committee

**Pgm Cnvr. Mr. Thomas M. George 631-432-1648**  
 Mr. Abraham George 516-747-2488  
 Mr. John Thomas 516-352-3054  
 Mr. Schawn Zachariah 516-328-8791  
 Mrs. Mercy Thomas 718-347-0346  
 Mr. Binu Daniel. 516-488-7831

#### Finance Committee

**Fnce Cnvr: Mr. Roy C. Thomas 718-347-0346**  
 Mr. Sabu Lukose 516-902-4300  
 Mr. George Thomas. 516-233-2129  
 Mr. Benjamin George 516-616-5565  
 Mr. Suresh John 516-216-1892  
 Mr. Melvin John 718-343-0002

#### Project Committee

**Pjt Cnvr: Mr. Mathew P. George 516-503-1735**  
 Mr. John Varkey 516-233-1128  
 Mr. Abraham Thomas 516-877-5925  
 Mr. Mathew Thomas 917-539-1652  
 Mrs. Sosamma Idchandi 516-437-8562  
 Ms. Catherine Philip 516-781-0205

#### Souvenir/ Directory/ Publicity Committee

**Svr/Directory/Pblicity Cnvr Mr. George Eapen 718-343-0505**  
 Mr. Biju Chacko 516-996-4611  
 Mr. Thomas Mathew 516-996-6065  
 Mr. E.V Philip 516-326-2629  
 Mr. Sam George 516-581-6128  
 Mr. Bently Joseph 516-643-4212

### Trustees Corner

January 15 is a memorable day for St Johns family. Unexpectedly, our sprinkler system malfunctioned on that day which resulted in the flooding of sanctuary and basement. Next five weeks have been very challenging for many of us. By the grace of God, we were able to overcome all difficulties and bring everything back to normal in record time, proving our resilience.

While taking care of the water damage, we have used this as an opportunity to take care of many maintenance activities. We listened to your suggestions and several improvements have been made in both sanctuary and basement. Sprinkler system is being evaluated to install advanced alert mechanism so that damage in such events can be prevented.

At this time, we would like to thank our Achen whose dedication and commitment helped us to get through this challenging period. His leadership and drive has been an inspiration for us. Thanks to all EC members, maintenance team, and audio visual team for their hard work and consistent physical presence. We also want to thank Galaxy Homes for their excellent work and timely completion of job.

There are many individuals who spent their time regardless of their age, health, position etc. and helped us in this task. Their willingness to come and help us in this cold weather indicates how passionate they are with the church and its upkeep.

May Almighty Lord reward their efforts with His immense blessings.

With prayerful regards,

### Trustees

**(Philip Thomas & Sanu Mathew)**

### THANK YOU

**Eastern Long Island** prayer group parishioners and Mr. John Mathew K for assisting with the church services and for preparing coffee for social time during the month of February.

**Elmont** area prayer group will assist in the church services and social hour during the month of **March** and Floral Park area prayer will be assisting in **April**.

### CONDOLENCES.

**On behalf of the St. John's MTC**, we express our sincere condolences to Mr. John Mathew K and family of Eastern Long Island area Prayer group on the demise of Mr. Thomas Abraham, brother of Mrs. Sheela John Mathew.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

**Superintendent – Abraham T. Abraham 718-343-5465 or 347-720-5041**

Nursery	Juniors, Grade 6
Christine Thomas 516-216-5051	Laila George 631-462-1648
Dana Philip 718-465-3952	Johnson P. Philip 516-739-3744
Kindergarten	Teena Mathew 516-488-2629
Molamma Thankachan 718-468-4434	Junior High, Grade 7
Linda Mathew 516-326-8526	Thankamma Abraham 718-343-9344
Aji Thomas 516-741-0465	Bently Joseph 516-822-5463
Primary Juniors, GR. 1	Cyril Abraham 516-777-0791
Bhavna Mathews 516-746-5222	Junior High, Grade 8
Ginsey George 631-265-5730	Sunitha Abraham 917-699-4451
Joash Mathew 516-450-7301	Stacy Daniel 516-851-0317
Primary Juniors, GR. 2	Seniors, Grade 9
Jyothi Thomas 516-921-8023	Susan Varghese 718-347-2709
Sherry George 718-614-3731	Anchi Mathews 718-347-3488
Angel C. Abraham 516-754-3688	Seniors, Grade 10
Primary Juniors, GR. 3	Koruthu George 516-354-7552
Rachel Philip 516-326-2629	Santhosh George 516-298-0901
Joan Johnson 516-739-3744	Swithin Titus 718-217-0463
Stacey Mathew 516-616-9446	Senior High, Grade 11
Primary Juniors, GR. 4	Mathew P. George 516-742-3686
Rachel George 718-468-1224	Philip Oommen 718-776-2585
Rena Titus 718-217-0463	Senior High, Grade 12
Primary Juniors, GR. 5	Philip Varghese 718-347-2709
Sherly Ninan 516-488-2574	Binu Chacko 347-262-8211
Mercy Babu 516-538-2833	

## CHURCH FACILITIES MAINTENANCE TEAM

<b>Vicar / President</b>	<b>Rev. Joji K. Mathew</b>	<b>718-465-2358 (Par.)</b>
	<b>718-468-4141</b>	<b>718-450-2869 (Cell)</b>
<b>Mr. Thomas M. George</b>	(631) 462-1648	
<b>Mr. Philip Thomas</b>	(516) 361-2564	(516) 921-8023
<b>Mr. Biju Chacko</b>	(516) 996-4611	(516) 214-4190
<b>Mr. Mathew Thomas</b>	(917) 539-1652	(718) 343-1054
<b>Mr. Saji Thomas</b>	(646) 591-8465	(516) 775-1512
<b>Audio/Video Systems Team Members:</b>	<b>Mr. Sam George</b>	(516) 581-6128
	<b>Mr. Bob Abraham</b>	(516) 603-3898
	<b>Shawn Zachariah</b>	<b>Mr. Munna V. Sam</b>
	(516) 305-7287	718-343-5036

If undeliverable, please return to:

St. John's Mar Thoma Church  
90-37 213th Street  
Queens Village, NY 11428

“ Arise, Shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Isaiah: 60: 1-2



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