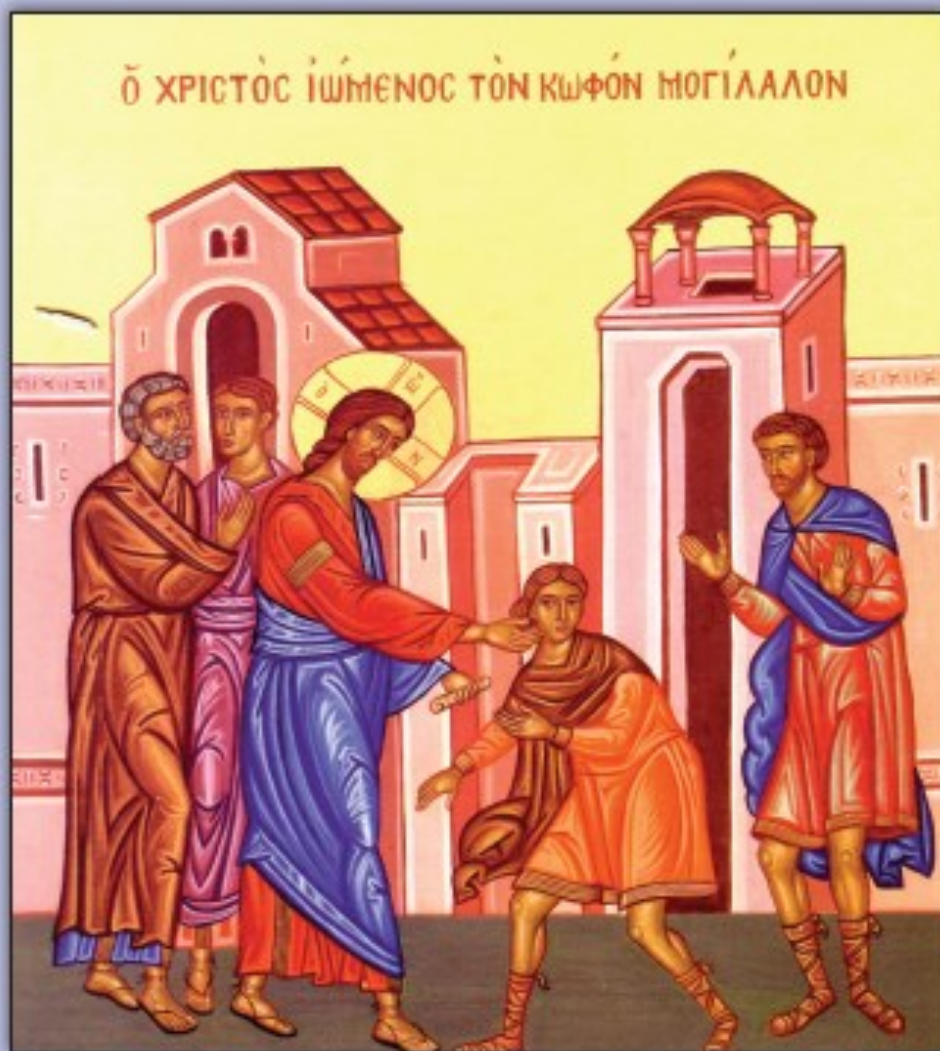


FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST  
SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS



*Icon of the Healing of the Deaf Mute -- Mark 9:17-31*

## **WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS**

**NOTE:** *Liturgical Services for Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church, West Easton, are noted in italic print; Liturgical services for St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, Bethlehem, are noted in plain print* **Outside events and services are listed in bold print.** Thank you for your attention!

**NOTE:** Confessions are heard 1/2 hour before Divine Services or by Appointment. Call Father Paul or Father Yaroslav anytime you need the Sacraments!

### **Sat, Mar 18th: All-Souls Saturday/Sorokousty (IV)**

9:00 am: Matins for the Deceased (Bethlehem).

9:00 am: *Matins for the Deceased (West Easton).*

4:30 pm: *Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (West Easton); Intention for +Zoriana Steele, by the Stoken Family.*

6:30 pm: Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (Bethlehem); Intention for Health and Conversion of Thomas McManus, by Anne and William.

### **Sun, Mar 19th: The Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast, of St. John Climacus**

9:00 am: Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (Eng.) (Bethlehem); Intention for God's Blessings on Our Living and Deceased Parishioners.

11:00 am: *Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (Ukr.) (West Easton); Intention for Health and God's Blessings on Father Yaroslav and His Family, by Robert and Roberta Leiby.*

### **Mon, Mar 20th: The Commemoration of the Venerable Fathers of the Monastery of St. Sabbas** NO DIVINE SERVICES.

### **Tue, Mar 21st: The Hierarch and Confessor James of Catania**

9:00 am: Lenten Matins (Bethlehem).

9:00 am: *Lenten Matins (West Easton).*

**6:30 pm: Moleben to the Mother of God for Peace in Ukraine, Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church, West Easton, PA.**

### **Wed, Mar 22nd: The Priest and Martyr Basil of Ancyra**

9:00 am: Lenten Matins (Bethlehem).

9:00 am: *Lenten Matins (West Easton).*

6:00 pm: *Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (West Easton).*

6:30 pm: Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (Bethlehem); Intention for +Robert L. Wilson, by Michael and Maria Wetherill.

### **Thu, Mar 23rd: The Hierarch Andrew of Crete**

9:00 am: Lenten Matins (Bethlehem).

9:00 am: *Lenten Matins (West Easton).*

5:30 pm: The Great Canon of Andrew of Crete (Bethlehem).

### **Fri, Mar 24th: The Venerable Father Zachary**

9:00 am: Lenten Matins (Bethlehem).

9:00 am: *Lenten Matins (West Easton).*

6:00 pm: *Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (West Easton).*

6:30 pm: Great Vespers for the Feast of the Annunciation (Bethlehem).

### **Sat, Mar 25th: The Feast of the Annunciation of the God-Bearer [HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION]**

9:00 am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Bethlehem); Intention for +Maria Besoushko, by Mary Lushnycky.

9:00 am: *Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (West Easton); Intention for God's Blessings on Our Living and Deceased Parishioners.*

4:30 pm: *Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (West Easton); Intention for Health and God's Blessings on Father Paul Makar, by Robert and Roberta Leiby.*

6:30 pm: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Bethlehem); Intention for Sister Martin Rodko, MSMG (3rd and 9th Days) by Rev. Paul J. Makar.

**Sun, Mar 26th: *The Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast, of the Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt***

9:00 am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Ukr.) (Bethlehem); Intention for Kyr +Soter (Ortynsky), Prot # 322/2022C.

11:00 am: *Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Eng.) (West Easton); Intention for God's Blessings on Our Living and Deceased Parishioners.*

**Parish Announcements:**

1. Saturday, March 25th, and Sunday, March 26th, we will have a surprise Lenten parish mission; Rev. Walter Pasicznyk of Holy Transfiguration Ukrainian Catholic Church, Nanticoke, PA, and Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Plymouth, PA, will come to preach a Lenten Mission at the scheduled Saturday Evening and Sunday Liturgies. Father Paul will in turn be preaching a Lenten Mission to Father Walter's parishes in Nanticoke and Plymouth.
2. As part of our Lenten Services for 2023, we will be having the Great Canon of Andrew of Crete on Thursday Evening, March 23rd, 2023, starting at 5:30 pm. This is a very old penitential service of our Church that essentially is a conversation between a penitent and his soul; it has many prostrations to remind us of the importance of humility and repentance before God. A light Lenten meal will be served after the service. We encourage all to come and share in the deep spirituality of our Church by participating, not just with this service, but with all of our scheduled Lenten services.
3. The St. Josaphat Tryzub Association is now selling tickets for the upcoming Easter Dinner/Sviachene on Sunday, April 23rd, 2023 after the scheduled Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am. Tickets are \$15.00 per adult and \$10.00 per child under 12 if purchased in advance; \$20.00 per adult, and \$15.00 per child under 12 if purchased on the 23rd at the door. This dinner is open to St. Josaphat and Holy Ghost parishioners. To purchase tickets, either contact any St. Josaphat Tryzub member or St. Josaphat Rectory.
4. The Ukrainian Catholic/Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of the Lehigh Valley will have their next weekly Moleben for Peace in Ukraine on Tuesday, March 14th, 2023, at 6:30 pm, at Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church, West Easton, PA. All are encouraged to come and pray with us.
5. FOR WEST EASTON PARISHIONERS: On 3/31/23, the Hermans will clean Holy Ghost Cemetery. If there are any decorations that are valuable, please remove them. Otherwise, they will be removed and placed in the dumpster. Thank you for your attention to this matter!
6. The Ukrainian-American Veterans Post 42 is having their annual Easter Kobasa sale; also, the Soyuz Ukrainok Lehigh Valley Chapter 91 is having their annual Easter Kiffle/Paska sale, and Holy Ghost Church is having their annual Easter Paska/Butter Lamb sale. Sign up sheets are provided in the vestibules of Holy Ghost and St. Josaphat Churches for ordering. Please order soon as Palm Sunday will soon be upon us!
7. The Holy Ghost Centennial Book Sub-Committee are still selling memorials for those who wish to remember their beloved ones who attended Holy Ghost Church. To purchase a memorial and help support this special publication, please contact Marlene Lightcap or Holy Ghost Rectory.
8. Do not forget your Redner's Receipts for both Holy Ghost and St. Josaphat parishes! Also at Holy Ghost, do not forget that we also have a metal recycling fundraising program as well!

*Please don't leave this bulletin in the pew or in the trash when you are finished. We encourage you to share this bulletin with your loved ones. Let your family & friends know of the spiritual treasure that God has for all people here at St. Josaphat's, Bethlehem, and at Holy Ghost, West Easton, PA!*

## The Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast; The Sunday of St. John Climacus

**Troparion (8):** You came down from on high, O Merciful One, and accepted three days of burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our life and our resurrection, glory be to You.

**Troparion (1):** O John, our father, Godbearer, hermit of the desert and angel in the flesh, you received heavenly gifts by your fasting, vigils, and prayers; You healed the sick and those coming to you with faith. Glory be to Him Who gives you strength; glory be to Him Who crowned you; glory be to the Lord Who heals all through your intercession.

**Kontakion (4):** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever: Amen.* O John, our leader and father, the Lord has placed you on high as a true guiding star lighting the ends of the earth with the truth of your virtue.

**Prokimenon (8):** Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy and take their rest.

**Verse:** Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courtyard of our God.

**Epistle (Heb 6,13-20):** When God made the promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, "he swore by himself," and said, "I will indeed bless you and multiply you." And so, after patient waiting, he obtained the promise. Human beings swear by someone greater than themselves; for them an oath serves as a guarantee and puts an end to all argument. So when God wanted to give the heirs of his promise an even clearer demonstration of the immutability of his purpose, he intervened with an oath, so that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm, which reaches into the interior behind the veil, where Jesus has entered on our behalf as forerunner, becoming high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

**Alleluia Verse:** Let us come before His countenance with praise and acclaim Him with psalms.

## 4-а Неділя Посту; Неділя Преподобного Івана Ліствичника

**Тропар (8):** З висоти зійшов Ти, Милосердний, і триденне погребення прийняв Ти, щоб нас звільнити від страждань. Життя і воскресіння наше, Господи, слава Тобі!

**Тропар (1):** Пустинним жителем і в тілі ангелом, і чудотворцем показав ти себе, богоносний отче наш Іване. Постом, чуванням, молитвою небесні дарування прийнявши, зціляєш недужих і душі, що з вірою прибігають до тебе. Слава тому, що дав тобі кріпость, слава тому, що вінчав тебе, слава тому, що діє тобою всім зцілення.

**Кондак (4):** *Слава Отцю, і Суну, і Святому Духові, і нині, і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь.* На висоті правдивої повздержности Господь тебе поставив, як звізду необманну, що просвічує світокраї, наставнику Іване, отче наш. Прокімен:

**Прокімен (8):** Возхваляться преподобні у славі і возрадуються на ложах своїх.

**Стих:** Насаджені в домі Господнім, у дворах Бога нашого процвітуть.

**Апостоль (Євр 6,13-20):** Браття, і справді, коли Бог учиняв Авраамові обітницю, не маючи поклястися ніким вищим, то поклявся самим собою, кажучи: "Справді поблагословлю тебе щедро й розмножу тебе вельми." І він, завдяки довгій терпеливості, досягнув обітницю: люди клянуться більшим від себе, і всякі їхні суперечки кінчаються клятвою на ствердження. Тому й Бог, бажаючи дати спадкоємцям обітниці якнайсильніший доказ, що його рішення непорушне, вжив клятви, щоб двома незмінними речами, в яких неможливо, щоб Бог казав неправду, ми мали сильну заохоту, - ми, що прибігли прийняти надію, призначену нам. В ньому маємо, неначе якір душі, безпечний та міцний, що входить аж до середини за завісу, куди ввійшов за нас, як предтеча, Ісус, ставши архиєреєм повіки, на зразок Мелхиседека.

**Апостольські Стих (Алилуя):** Хваліте Господа з небес, хваліте Його на висотах.

**Verse:** Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courtyard of our God.

**Gospel (Mk 9,17-31):** At that time, someone in the crowd came to Jesus and said, "Teacher I have brought to you my son possessed by a mute spirit. Wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they were unable to do so." He said to them in reply, "O faithless generation, how long will I be with you? How long will I endure you? Bring him to me." They brought the boy to him. And when he saw him, the spirit immediately threw the boy into convulsions. As he fell to the ground, he began to roll around and foam at the mouth. Then he questioned his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" He replied, "Since childhood. It has often thrown him into fire and into water to kill him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can! Everything is possible to one who has faith." Then the boy's father cried out, "I do believe; help my unbelief!" Jesus, on seeing a crowd rapidly gathering, rebuked the unclean spirit and said to it, "Mute and deaf spirit, I command you: come out of him and never enter him again!" Shouting and throwing the boy into convulsions, it came out. He became like a corpse, which caused many to say, "He is dead!" But Jesus took him by the hand, raised him, and he stood up. When he entered the house, his disciples asked him in private, "Why could we not drive it out?" He said to them, "This kind can only come out through prayer and through fasting."

**Instead of *It is truly right...*, the Irmos:** In you, O Woman Full of Grace, the angelic choirs and the human race - all creation - rejoices. O Sanctified Temple, Mystical Paradise, and Glory of Virgins! He, Who is our God from before all ages took flesh from you and became a child. He made your womb a throne, and greater than the heavens. In you, O Woman Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. All praise be to you!

**Communion Verse:** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance. An evil report he will not fear. Alleluia (3x).

**Стих:** Насаджені в домі Господнім, у дворах Бога нашого процвітуть.

**Євангелія (Мк 9,17-31):** Гвідказав Ісусові один з народу: "Учителю, привів я до тебе сина мого, що має німого духа, і де тільки його вхопить, кидає його об землю так, що піниться, скрегоче зубами, дерев'яніє. Просив я учнів твоїх, щоб його вигнали, та не змогли." Він же у відповідь каже їм: "О роде невірний! Доки я буду з вами? Доки вас терпітиму? Приведіть но його до мене." І привели його до нього. Скоро дух угледів його, притьмом того затряс, і повалившись той на землю, запінився, почав качатися. Спитав же його батька: "Скільки часу, як це йому сталося?" – "З дитинства," - відповідав той. "І часто він кидає його у вогонь і в воду, щоб його погубити? Та якщо можеш, допоможи нам, змилосердившись над ним." Ісус же каже йому: "Щодо того - якщо можеш, то все можливо тому, хто вірує." І вмить батько хлопчини викрикнув крізь сльози: "Вірю, поможи моєму невірству!" Ісус же, бачивши, що збігається народ, погрозив нечистому духові, кажучи, "Німіий та глухий душе! Наказую тобі: Вийди з нього й не входи більше в нього." І, закричавши та сильно його стрясаши, вийшов з нього. І наче змертвів той, тож многі казали: "Вмер він." Але Ісус, узявши його за руку, підвів його, і той устав. Коли ж він увійшов у дім, то учні його питали його на самоті: "Чому ми не могли його вигнати?" Він відповів їм: "Цей рід нічим не можна вигнати, тільки молитвою та постом." Вийшовши звідти, проходили крізь Галилею, і він не хотів, щоб будь - хто знав. Навчав бо своїх у

**Замість *Достойно . . .*, Ірмос:** Тобою, Благодатна, радіє все творіння; ангельський хор і людський рід. Святий храм і раю духовний, похвало днів! З Тебе Бог воплотився і став хлоп'ятком - предвічний Бог наш. Твоє бо лонно він учинив Своїм престолом, просторішим від небес. Тобою, Благодатна, радіє все творіння. Слава Тобі!

**Причасний Стих:** Хваліте Господа з небес, хваліте Його на висотах. В пам'ять вічну буде праведник, злих слухів не увойтєся. Аلیلуя (3р).

**The Lives of the Saints:  
The Venerable Father John Climacus and the Commemoration of the Non-Judging Monk  
Sunday, March 19th, 2023**

*Compiled from Various Sources; Edited for the Bulletin; For Local Use Only.*

1. **St. John Climacus (John of the Ladder) of Sinai** is best known as the author of the Ladder of Divine Ascent, a treasury of spiritual wisdom which is read in its entirety in monasteries during every Lenten season. He is commemorated on the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent. Nothing is known of his life before he entered the monastery at Mount Sinai (now St Catherine's Monastery) at the age of sixteen; he remained there until his death at the age of eighty. After he first arrived, he spent nineteen years in strict obedience to his spiritual father, Martyrios. When Martyrios died, John retired to a nearby cave, where he lived in the strictest asceticism for twenty years. (It was during these years that he wrote the Ladder.) He reluctantly returned to the monastery when he was made abbot by the brethren, and spent the rest of his days guiding his spiritual children in the way of salvation.

Once he heard a monk criticize him for speaking too much; rather than reproach the monk, he himself kept silence for a full year, never uttering a word until the brethren begged him to speak again. At another time a large company of pilgrims came to Mt Sinai. At supper they all saw a young man, dressed as a Jew, serving at table and giving orders to the other servants, then suddenly disappearing. When they wondered among themselves what this could mean, John said 'Do not try to look for him; that was the prophet Moses serving you in his own home.'

When the holy abbot knew that his death was approaching, he appointed his own brother, George, as his successor. George grieved the approaching death of his beloved brother, but St John told him that, if he was found worthy to stand close to God after his death, he would pray that George be taken up to heaven in the same year. So it happened: ten months after St John's death, George reposed in the Lord.

2. **The Commemoration of an Uncondemning Monk** (*Author Unknown; however, this story is often recounted on the Fourth Sunday of the Fast to remind us about carelessness in judging others.*) This monk died joyfully because he had never in his life condemned anyone. He was lazy, careless, disinclined to prayer, but throughout his entire life he had never judged anyone. And when he lay dying, he was full of joy. The brethren asked him how he could die so joyfully with all his sins, and he replied: 'I have just seen the angels, and they showed me a page with all my many sins. I said to them: "The Lord said: 'Judge not, that ye be not judged.' I have never judged anyone and I hope in the mercy of God, that He will not judge me." And the angels tore up the sheet of paper.' Hearing this, the monks wondered at it and learned from it." (*From the Prologue of Ochrid.*)



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT**

*By Msgr. Eugene Chromoga; Edited for the Bulletin.*

In a conversation, a very liberal minded person said he was by no means afraid of the devil. His friend told him that's not what matters, it is not a question of whether or not one is afraid of the devil. What's important, "is the devil afraid of you?" The answer to this is definitely no!

Today's gospel tells us how Jesus freed a possessed person from his sad condition. The apostles were puzzled because they were unable to accomplish this. Jesus response was: "This



kind can be cast out only by prayer and fasting."

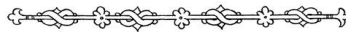
During Great Lent we concentrate on prayer and fasting more than at any other time of the year. We don't do this to free ourselves or anyone else from any type of possession by the devil. It's done to free ourselves from an obsession with ourselves; to free oneself from uncontrollable desires and passions.

By prayer and fasting we discipline our bodies and contemplate a new life in Christ. Both serve to control our emotions and actions and to bring us closer to God.

Some people, however, look upon Lent and its regulations as something they must reluctantly suffer. They look upon Lent as a dark cloud which overshadows their lives and brings gloom and sadness. What they fail to realize is that dark clouds bring life-giving water from the heavens. The so-called spiritual dark clouds of prayer and fasting contain life-giving graces which can bring new life to the soul and reconciliation with God.

Prayer and fasting should be an essential part of our Lenten program. But we should not forget a reminder from the words of the Triodion: "... Let us fast, O faithful, from corrupting snares; from harmful passions, so that we may acquire life from the divine cross and return with the good thief to our home....."

It is not necessary to have power over evil spirits. We need Christ's help to overpower ourselves and to lead a holy life. Prayer and fasting are important. Jesus tells us so!



### **Upcoming Events in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia:**

1. The Archeparchy of Philadelphia is looking for interested young adults 18-35 to attend the next World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, from August 1st-8th, 2023. For more information, please contact Father Paul or Father Yaroslav.

### **The Sayings of the Desert Fathers on Fasting:**

Once two brothers went to visit an old man. It was not the old man's habit, however, to eat every day. When he saw the brothers, he welcomed them with joy, and said: "Fasting has its own reward, but if you eat for the sake of love, you satisfy two commandments, for you give up your own will and also fulfill the commandment to refresh others."



**St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church**  
**"Where Faith and Tradition Meet"**

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Rev. Paul J. Makar, Pastor  
Mrs. Carol Hanych, Cantor  
Ms. Kimberly McGowan, Parish Secretary

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Rev. Paul J. Makar, Administrator  
Rev. Yaroslav Lukavenko, Parochial Vicar  
Mr. Ted Veresink, Cantor/Cemetery Administrator  
Mr. Ihor Mirchuk, Cantor  
Mrs. Ann Bogari, Parish Secretary

**For Food Sales/Info.:** [foodsales@holyghostucc.com](mailto:foodsales@holyghostucc.com)

***Glory to Jesus Christ! Слава Ісусу Христу!***

*We welcome you to our parish family and invite you to worship with us in a most ancient Church of the Christian East. We are happy to have you with us, and we are honored to share our Ukrainian Catholic tradition of prayer and spirituality with you, your family, and your friends. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to bring them to Father Paul, Father Yaroslav, or one of our parishioners. Our doors and our hearts are open to you. May God's blessings be with you always!*

***Healer of Infirmities***

The deaf-mute, of whose marvelous cure by our Lord we have heard, represents those members of the human race who merit being freed by divine grace from the error brought on by the devil's deceit. Man became deaf, unable to hear the word of life after, puffed up as he was against God, he listened to the serpent's deadly words; he was made mute and unable to declare the praises of his Maker from the time when he presumed to have a conversation with his seducer. Rightly did God close man's ears from hearing the praises of his Creator along with the angels - those ears which the unsuspected enemy by his speech had opened to hearing denunciation of this same Creator. Rightly did God close man's mouth from proclaiming the praises of his Creator along with the angels - that mouth which the proud deceiver had filled with his lies about the forbidden food, in order, as the devil said, to improve upon the work of

this same Creator. And alas, the unfortunate rebellion of the human race, which sprouted in a corrupt manner at the root, began to spread in a much more corrupt way in shoots from the branches, so that when our Lord came in the flesh, with the exception of a few of the faithful from among the Jews, almost the entire world, now deaf and mute, was wandering away from recognition and confession of the truth. But where sin abounded, grace abounded all the more. Our Lord came to the Sea of Galilee, where He knew that there was a disabled person whom He would heal. He came by his benevolent grace to the proud, disordered, and inconstant hearts of the nations, since He knew that among them were some who would be receptive to His grace.

*St. Bede the Venerable*

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