

Saturday 11 April 2020

Jer.14, 7: *“Although our sins testify against us, do something, LORD, for the sake of your name.”*

1Pt.2, 24: *“He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness.”*

God is he with whom we have to do. Who is he? To those who sin, to the wicked, he is the Judge, the God they never wanted to know. Sinners have to do with him who weighs their deeds, their hearts, words and thoughts and will pronounce judgment in holiness and justice. To those who realise and say “our sins testify against us” he is the one whom they shall know – helping, saving, merciful, gracious, of unbounding love, and whom in knowing they shall want to serve.

The Gospel of Luke tells us there were two criminals who were crucified alongside Jesus, one on his right and one to his left. One, disregarding his sin, hurled insults at Jesus: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” The other rebuked him saying: “Don’t you fear God, since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then, perfectly expressing Jer.14, he said: “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

He asks for mercy and grace because the name ‘Jesus’ is that of the Saviour, God. And as he sought life under grace so he came to know. Which is the case for all who seek. *“He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness.”*