

**Thoughts on the Daily Word**

*18<sup>th</sup> Week of Year. Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August. Readings: Nahum 2:1,3,3:1-3,6-7; Psalm: Deut. 32; Gospel: Matthew 16:24-28.*

Assyria was a byword for cruelty in the ancient world. Remember Jonah refusing God's request to try and convert them from their ways of violence. Nahum is little known but speaks about the horror of the Assyrians and their capital, Nineveh. It flows from the fear of Judah that their turn would be next. Indeed, it was a close-run thing. Nahum speaks on behalf of all victim peoples when the tables are turned, and disaster strikes the aggressor. We still remember the downfall of the Nazi regime and the end of the Pacific war against the Japanese. We still have many programs and books on the war and its evil aggressors. We still deliberately remember the joy of the final victory. I remember the famous quote from Winston Churchill that the price of victory or peace is eternal vigilance. Jesus is saying much the same to his disciples as they refuse to face the suffering that will come. Nahum, Isaiah, and Jeremiah have the same word. Repent means eternal vigilance, being aware of our failures and being prepared to challenge them to secure peace. The kind of peace that only Christ, the Son of Man, can ultimately bring.