

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Reading 1

Isaiah 58:7-10

Thus says the LORD:

Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless;

clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own.

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed;
your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say:

Here I am! If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation and malicious
speech; if you bestow your bread on the hungry
and satisfy the afflicted; then light shall rise for you in the darkness,
and the gloom shall become for you like midday.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 112 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R. The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.

Light shines through the darkness for the upright;

he is gracious and merciful and just.

Well for the man who is gracious and lends,

who conducts his affairs with justice.

R. The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.

He shall never be moved;

the just one shall be in everlasting remembrance.

An evil report he shall not fear;

his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.

R. The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.

His heart is steadfast; he shall not fear.

Lavishly he gives to the poor;

His justice shall endure forever;
his horn shall be exalted in glory.

R. The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.

Reading 2

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, proclaiming the mystery of God,
I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom.
For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him
crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling,
and my message and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom,
but with a demonstration of Spirit and power, so that your faith might rest not on human
wisdom but on the power of God.

Gospel

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples:
"You are the salt of the earth.
But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?
It is no longer good for anything
but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.
You are the light of the world.
A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.
Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket;
it is set on a lampstand,
where it gives light to all in the house.
Just so, your light must shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your heavenly Father."

Discussion Questions - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

The readings for this Sunday call for us as leaders in our family, parish and community - to authentic witness: embodying true justice and mercy, rising as light through righteousness and generosity, proclaiming Christ with humble power, and and shining as salt and light through good works. These texts challenge us to lead not by worldly wisdom or status, but by servant-hearted actions that glorify God and transform communities.

1. The responsorial psalm says, “The just man is a light in darkness to the upright”. Looking around us today, with all of the chaos in our country and the world, how might we influence our family and friends to trust in God by being one whose “heart is steady, who will not be afraid”?
2. St. Paul models leadership not by “lofty words or wisdom”, but rather by relying on the Spirit’s power to proclaim “Jesus Christ, and Him crucified”. How can you ensure that what you do and say is grounded in humility, allowing for divine wisdom to guide your actions?
3. In the Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus says “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste... it is thrown out and trampled under foot”. How does complacency erode your God-given ability to lead others to Christ?