

## **Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Lectionary: 73**

Readings: [Isaiah 58:7-10](#); [Psalms 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9](#); [First Corinthians 2:1-5](#); [Matthew 5:13-16](#)

### **Reading 1** [IS 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** [PS 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9](#) - R. (4a) **The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.**

### **Reading 2** [1 COR 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** [MT 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."

The reading from the scripture in the Gospel of Matthew this weekend is part of the 'Sermon on the Mount', and it is preceded in Matthew by the Beatitudes. It's in the context of the Beatitudes that we must hear the scriptures from Isaiah, Paul and Matthew today. Isaiah and Jesus are telling us that the Beatitudes must not only be lived but be seen to be lived, and as Paul tells us, being sinners still and each with our own gifts, we are not to let those truths about us, inhibit us in sharing the good news in prayer, word and action. Living faith is faith lived with love for neighbor which is empowered and enflamed through love for God. Living faith is seen and heard. To live our faith, is to be salt and light. Christianity is not a private religion. The Gospel truth cannot be shared if it cannot be witnessed. God cannot be fully and freely glorified if we refuse to reflect the light of God. We ought not to be deterred by fear of failure, by perfections not yet acquired, by government pressure or popular sentiment. In season and out, we must give testimony by our lives. Loved or reviled, we must unhesitatingly shine light into the darkness of the world and season civil society. There will always be, as there has always been, those who shrink from love, hiss at your outstretched hand, who cower or who lunge in hatred when the light begins to reach into their souls. Charity seeks no revenge and knows no limit.

We must be salt and light for others that they too may be drawn toward the heart of Christ. Our only aim in living out the Gospel with maximum visibility is to light the way, to the truth and the fullness of human life. To God who loves them and in whom is our ultimate happiness. It isn't always easy, but it is always necessary. God assures that although souls are won and they are lost every day, not to us but to God. And God forbid, not because of us. We all belong to God, who never ceases to be a loving Father to the most distant and darkened souls existing in desert wastelands where even oases of hope become undiscoverable without the one who yet sustains them, the lost. God spares no effort to bring them home. For us, saved by that amazing grace, who come to know and do the will of God for love of Him and neighbor. Who strive to imitate Christ as salt and light, we are encouraged all the more because with each passing day of living faith the light breaks forth all the more and we are healed ourselves, all the more. He answers our call, comforts and caresses with His presence, and we are filled with joy. Our praises in chorus raising and the heavens rejoice.

Paul reminds us that God works even in our weakness and in spite of our faults. Reaching others is not outside of any persons reach. Some may have the eloquence of Saint John Chrysostom and others the gentleness of St. Francis. Some may have the greatest intellect and others may be illiterate. Some may open doors with wealth and others open hearts with their presence. All, who have faith can share faith. All who know Christ can share Christ. Our lack of talent or influence or education can never be excuses for not sharing our experience of Christ and of working with others to establish the Kingdom among us.

A Christian's mission in the world, just like Christ's mission, is to make a positive difference for others, by bringing them the power and the illumination of the gospel. Every one of us has some kind of reach: within our family, with our friends, classmates, and coworkers, within our community and country. We are all involved in a unique, complex network of relationships - every one of us. And Jesus is reminding us today that we are called to be salt and light in every one of those relationships - to share with others the meaning, the hope, the forgiveness, the goodness we ourselves have received from the Lord. This is every Christian's mission.

If God is calling each of us to make a real, everlasting difference in the lives of others, then it must be possible for us to do it.

But how?

Living faith is faith lived as never ending spiritual and corporal works of mercy, the official and the unofficial.

# Corporal

# Spiritual

**14**  
**Works of Mercy**  
Catholiccompany.com  
*Because Faith Matters*



Visit the imprisoned



Instruct the ignorant



Counsel the doubtful



Feed the hungry



Give drink to the thirsty



Forgive offenses



Shelter the homeless



Admonish sinners



Clothe the naked



Comfort the afflicted



Visit the sick



Pray for the living and dead



Bury the dead



Bear wrongs patiently