

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

GOD SAVES AND FORGIVES



My brothers and sisters in Christ, the word of God for this Sunday reveals to us a God who wants to free and save those who were lost. The prophet Isaiah in the first reading addresses a people who have just experienced a long period of captivity. He announces the good news: **today God intervenes to save His people.** This good news concerns all of us today: in this world of ours, many live in despair, fears, and desolation. It is into this world as it is that we are sent. Our mission is to reveal the Source of living water, the one that makes all the deserts bloom: those of our families, those of our lives, and those of our world. **This**

inexhaustible source is the love that is in God. It is from Him that we are invited to draw every day.

The Gospel of Saint John shows us the mercy that liberates. Last Sunday, Jesus spoke of it in the form of a parable, that of the prodigal son. But today, we see Him confronted with a very real situation: a woman guilty of adultery is brought to Him. Her accusers are scribes and Pharisees, experts in the Law of Moses, people known for their religious fervor or fanaticism. According to the Law of Moses, this woman must be stoned. But if they turn to Jesus, it is to trap Him. If He refuses to condemn Her, He is in contradiction with the Law of Moses; and if He condemns her, He is in contradiction with the mercy he preaches.

Reading this Gospel, we think of all scandals, small and large. Some are known only to those close to us. Others are spread by the press, television, and the internet. It is then that we must return to these words of Christ: **"Let Him Who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."** Before God, we are all poor sinners. Before lecturing others, we are invited to remove the log in our own eye. This log is pride, it is contempt for the one who has sinned. By doing so, we go against Christ, who came to seek and save those who were lost. It was out of love for them and for the whole world that he died on a cross.

Let us understand clearly: sin is an evil that we must fight with all our strength. **But the sinner is someone who must be healed and saved. He needs help to find his place in the Christian Community. The Christian life is a daily battle against the forces of evil. But in this battle, we are not alone. Jesus is with us to show us the way.**

Lord, this Sunday, we have come to You with our desire to welcome your Word and let ourselves be transformed by it. You can change our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. May Your presence bring us the joy of helping, supporting, comforting, and loving. May your Word be Light for our world, and may Your Love soothe all who suffer.

***Very Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre Ph.D., Pastor, VF
Dean of Northwest Broward of the Archdiocese Miami – April 6, 2025***