

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS THROUGH OUR FAITH IN ACTION

The word of God on this fifth Sunday reveals to us a God who guides us towards the true Light. The prophet Isaiah (1st reading) addresses a people returning from a long captivity. Painful consequences of this terrible period remain. Despite everything, religious practice has been re-established. Full of good faith, these people want to please God. But there is a problem; and that is where Isaiah intervenes. Many think that God expects the most sumptuous ceremonies and the best fruits of the earth. It is normal to want to prostrate oneself before the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

But the true God is not like that; He demands nothing for Himself or for His personal Glory. **His happiness is to see that righteousness and justice animate the relationships between us. His Great Joy is that we live together as brothers and sisters.** Our attention must be directed towards the weakest and the poorest: **“Share your bread with the hungry... Do not turn away from your fellow human being.” We cannot love God without loving our neighbor. The God of the Bible is a Liberating and Merciful God.** What He asks of us is to have the same behavior. This is important because we are made in the image of God.

In the Gospel, we see disciples gathered around Jesus on the mountain. He says to them: **“You are the light of the world.”** This is also what He says again to each of us who are gathered around Him. It is up to us, disciples of Christ, to be authentic reflections of the life and teaching of Jesus. He entrusts us with being what He Himself is, **“the LIGHT OF THE WORLD.” The entire Christian community is called to become “A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS.”** It is up to us to actively engage in acts of salvation, liberation, and defense of the poor. As we listen to this message, we naturally think of those who minister in the Church. It is our humble duty to carry **this light of Christ's love**, to let it shine so that everyone may be warmed by it, draw energy and comfort from it, find gentleness and tenderness in it, and discover their path... However, it's not about being brilliant ourselves, but about **letting the light shine through us**—that's something quite different. It's about constantly returning to the Source, to draw from it the strength to put Christ's love into practice for everyone.

By coming to the Eucharist, we are welcomed by the One Who is the Light of the world. It is because we are gathered around Him "on the mountain" that we can, in turn, become the Light of the world. It is He Who sends us out to be His witnesses in this world that so desperately needs it.

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