

FEBRUARY 5, 2017 FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

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.

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 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.

Alleluia JN 8:12

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

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."

Reflection:

once upon a time, there was a king who had 3 sons. One day, he called them and asked them how much you all love me? The first son replied I love you like diamond. The second son said I love you like Gold and the third son said I love you like salt. King got angry with third son as soon as he heard and scold him nicely. The next day the cook failed to add salt in the food. King got angry and started to scold cook then slowly the third son said father, food becomes useless without salt that is why I said I love you like salt. I become useless without you dear father. Father realized his mistake and hugged his third son and said you are my beloved son. In the same in today's gospel Jesus compares our Christian life to the two essentials of life namely: salt

and light. Our Christian life must be useful to others like salt and light. Christian life expects us to be good Samaritans, repented sinners, generous widows, grateful lepers, prodigal fathers, etc... Salt dissolves itself in the water to give taste to food. So also as a Christian, we should dissolve ourselves for the sake of others. Especially for the sick, unwanted, orphans, widows etc.... We need to be like a light as light destroys itself to give light to others so we need to destroy ourselves to give life to others. One can become true Christian only when he or she follows the word of God. As a Christian, let us live like a light and salt for the people.