GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

In 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia! / I am the light of the world, says the Lord; / the man who follows me / will have the light of life. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5:13-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

You are the light of the world.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Reproduction of this bulletin in any form prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9746 1140. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2019. No 1811. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Reflections Gospe

BE SALT AND LIGHT

To appreciate what Jesus has in mind in the

images of 'salt' and 'light' we need to recall

the setting of the sermon that continues in

the Gospel for today. Jesus is addressing his

disciples in the presence of a great crowd of

burdened and afflicted people gathered on the

In the opening words of the sermon Jesus

called 'blessed' people prepared to live in

the vulnerable, non-grasping ways listed in

the nine beatitudes. Now it becomes clear

that they thereby become a blessing not just

for themselves but for the burdened mass of

humanity as well. As those who really lift other

people's burdens, they become and remain

the 'salt of the earth' and 'light of the world'.

Salt can hardly 'lose its taste'. Nevertheless, if

it is contaminated and so (in the days before

refrigeration) rendered useless for preservation, it is only good for salting the path outside the

house, where it will be trampled underfoot.

Disciples who fall away from their vocation

Jesus' comments in relation to 'light' fall into

two parts. First, in biblical tradition Jerusalem

was the archetypal 'city built on a hilltop'.

When the Temple was illuminated at night,

plain below (Matt 4:23-25).

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

FIRST READING

THE SAVING WORD

A reading from the prophet Isaiah Your light will shine like the dawn.

Thus says the Lord:

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

clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your own kin. Then your light will shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 111:4-9, R. v. 4

R. A light rises in the darkness for the upright. (or Alleluia!)

- 1. He is light in the darkness for the upright: he is generous, merciful and just. / The good man takes pity and lends, / he conducts his affairs with honour. R.
- 2. The just man will never waver: / he will be remembered for ever. / He has no fear of evil news; / with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. R.
- 3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear; / open-handed, he gives to the poor; / his justice stands firm for ever. / His head will be raised in glory. R.





SECOND READING

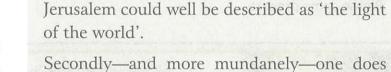
09 FEBRUARY 2020

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I came to you to proclaim Christ crucified.

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

■ The word of the Lord.



may face a similar fate.

not go to the trouble of lighting a lamp and then hiding it.

So we are to be like lamps kindled by God. Schooled by Jesus, our good works are to give light and hope in a darkened world.

Brendan Byrne, SJ