

[68] **FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** A

FIRST READING

Your light will shine like the dawn.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

58:7-10

The Lord says this:

Share your food with everyone who is hungry,
and share your home with the poor and the homeless.

Give clothes to all in need
and don't turn away your own relatives.

Then your light will shine like the dawning sun,
and you will quickly heal.

Your honesty will protect you as you advance,
and the glory of the Lord will defend you from behind.

Then you will call for help,
and the Lord will answer, "Here I am!"

Don't oppress others or falsely accuse them or say cruel things.

Give your food to the hungry,
and care for the helpless.

Then your light will shine in the darkness,
and your darkest hour will be like the noonday sun.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

112:4-5, 8ab and 9

R. (4a) A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

Those who worship you Lord
will be so kind and merciful and good,
that they will be a light
in the dark for others
who do the right thing.
Life will go well for those
who freely lend
and are honest in business.

R. A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

They are dependable
and not afraid.
They will always be remembered
and greatly praised,
because they were kind
and freely gave to the poor.

R. A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

SECOND READING

I have announced to you knowledge of Christ crucified.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 2:1-5

Brothers and sisters:

When I came and told you the mystery that God had shared with us,
I didn't use big words or try to sound wise.
In fact, while I was with you,
I made up my mind to speak only about Jesus Christ,
who had been nailed to a cross.

At first, I was weak and trembling with fear.
When I talked with you or preached,
I didn't try to prove anything by sounding wise.
I simply let God's Spirit show his power.
That way you would have faith because of God's power
and not because of human wisdom.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

John 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

You are the light of the world.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples:

“You are like salt for everyone on earth.

But if salt no longer tastes like salt,
how can it make food salty?

All it is good for is to be thrown out and walked on.”

“You are like light for the whole world.

A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden,
and no one would light a lamp and put it under a clay pot.

A lamp is placed on a lamp stand,
where it can give light to everyone in the house.

Make your light shine,
So that others will see the good that you do
and will praise your Father in heaven.”

The gospel of the Lord.



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle A

Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank you for shining your light in us. Please help us to act in ways that show others your light and love.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

Readings:

Isaiah 58: 7-10
Psalm 112:4-5, 8ab and 9
First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 2:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16

Preparation For Reflection:

Create a "clubhouse" in your classroom with a large table and thick, heavy, dark blankets. Have several flashlights available. Begin class outside of the clubhouse. Pray and share the readings. Then invite everyone into the clubhouse. Let several students use the flashlights until everyone is settled in the tent.

Reflection and Discussion:

- Who are some people you think are "stars?" (Typical answers: singers, actors/actresses, and athletes)
 - What makes them "stars?" (Typical answers: They are cute, talented, popular)
- Today, God is teaching us what it really means to be a star and to shine. Most of the people we usually think of as "stars" are popular because of how they look or perform or a talent they have. These are be good things since God gives us those talents but there are even better ways to become a star.

We are going to turn off all of the flashlights in our clubhouse and experience the dark for a few seconds.

Instructions:

- *If there are younger kids who may be afraid of the dark ask them to hold hands with each other.*
- *Ask those who are holding flashlights to turn theirs off and to keep them off until you ask them to turn them back on.*
- *Turn off all of the flashlights for a couple of seconds.*
- *After a few seconds, turn on only your 1 flashlight.*

Now that I have turned my light back on

- Who can you see? (You plus those sitting close to you)
- How does having my light on make you feel? (better, less afraid, more comfortable)

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Instructions:

- *Ask 1 child to turn their light on and then ask the above questions.*
- *Ask another child to turn their light on and then again ask the above questions.*
- *Continue turning on flashlights one by one.*

We learn today that real stars have a light that shines not just on themselves but on others, helping others and making life better for others. People like Mother Theresa, Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Jr., St. Maria De Mattias and the other saints, and people whose names we don't know but who spend their lives helping others.

We don't need to be rich, cute, or popular to be a star. God tells us we are stars because we carry God's light in us and when we love others and help them we shine with God's love making the world a brighter place just like when we turned on the lights in our dark clubhouse.

Activity: Star Badges

Preparation: Make small, badge size, stars with the word "star" written across them. Make copies on gold paper.

Materials: Star badges, scissors, pens/pencils, small safety pins

1. Ask the class to cut out several stars.(This can be done ahead of class if you wish)
2. On the front of the stars, ask the class to write their names.
3. On the back of the stars, ask the class to write or draw what makes them a star – not their talents but what they do to shine God's love on the world and to help others.
4. Pin the stars on them.
5. Ask the class to think about people they know personally who are stars and then make star badges for those people.
6. Give the class pins to go with these stars and instruct them to "pin" the badges on their star people (carefully!).