

Opening Prayer

Help me O God, because like all the children of men, I need your daily grace.
Yesterday's blessings can encourage but will not take care of the burdens of today.

May I know Thee as the Shepherd of my life and eternal soul. May my fears be dissolved by faith in Thee and through the power of Thy love.

Help me to love and manifest the spirit of love under all circumstances to all people.
May my life be a glory to Thyself, a help to my fellow-man and rewarding to me.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Readings: [5th Sunday of Ordinary Time](#)

Bishop Barron: [Graced Sinners on Mission](#)

Intentions [Link for your prayer requests.](#) (Link inactive for privacy's sake.)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection

Reflection on the reading from Isaiah:

In the First Reading, Isaiah dates a religious vision not by a day but by a death: "... in the year that King Uzziah died."

There are some things so painful for a person that events in his life can be dated by them: "in the year my wife died"; "in the year we lost our mom"; "in the year the hurricane devastated the town."

An affliction of this sort divides a whole life into before and after. Grief may overwhelm the survivor and create a longing to join the departed loved one.

Isaiah responded to that vision of the Lord by saying "Woe is me! I am doomed!" The angel seared his lips and Isaiah stepped up to serve the Lord realizing he was still alive and departed.

All his most important service for the Lord came after the death that dates his vision and that changed his life.

If you can stand under your sorrow, rather than falling apart, then through the searing grief can come a new life, a good life that was unimaginable to you before. If you can stand and live into the period of your life after the destruction of your heart's desire,

then God's grace can bring life out of death for you.

Reflection on the reading from Paul's letter to the Corinthians:

Paul reiterates to the community of Corinth how the grace and Word of God has traveled from Jesus's death on the Cross to his Resurrection to witnesses of the Risen Lord including his apostles and then to his Corinthian followers through his unworthy disciple, Paul. Paul acknowledges his suspect credentials as an apostle, having been one of most outrageous persecutors of Jesus' followers. Paul further states that his ferocity to encourage folks to follow Jesus' Way of Life is due to grace. Grace is the catalyst.

Reflection on the Gospel from Luke:

Another person who feels unworthy for doubting the word of the Lord, Simon Peter, is not shamed and sent away but invited to fish for followers with Jesus. Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M. (Catholic Culture) observed how Jesus did not choose well educated scholars or Roman officers, individuals who may have believed in Jesus' Way of Life and who might have been potentially more influential. Christ, who was about to set up not only a world-wide institute but an everlasting one, chose these simple fishermen and made them his assistants and his successors in the work that he had taken in hand.

Reflection on Bishop Barron:

Grace > Acknowledgement > Mission (action)

Bishop Barron says, "No one has the experience of the Lord without being sent!". Further - Allow the Grace to take hold of you, work on your sins, and send you on a mission.

Questions for Reflection:

- 1. What is your counsel for individuals struggling with the loss of a partner, close friend, favorite job or other important part of their everyday life up to that moment?**
- 2. Paul might not have passed a vetting process for apostles based on his prior actions. What kind of counsel or personal parables do you share with someone who says they are unworthy or less than what is required? What does that mean?**
- 3. Can we perform a Mission without being full of Grace? What is missing if no acknowledgement occurs?**

Closing Prayer

*I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save*

*I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away*

*I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my words to them
Whom shall I send?*

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save

Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart**

Amen

Here I Am, Lord Lyrics
By Dan Schutte