

# Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Homily: Fr. Shijo George

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The First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah is addressed to a people living in fear and uncertainty. At the time, Judah was under the shadow of an imminent Assyrian invasion. Politically, King Ahaz chose fear over faith. Instead of trusting in God, he paid a heavy tribute to Assyria, turning Judah into a vassal state.

Spiritually, the situation was no better. Many had drifted away from Yahweh, embracing idolatry, superstition, and injustice. Only a faithful remnant struggled to remain loyal, surrounded by darkness and despair. It is into this painful reality that Isaiah provides a word of consolation. He announces hope to a wounded land, Galilee, the region of Zebulon and Naphtali; already scarred by invasion and humiliation. The Prophet promises that God will not abandon His people. A light will shine. A new king from the line of David will come, bringing justice, peace, and freedom. For those tempted to rely on political alliances rather than God, Isaiah's message is clear: salvation comes not from human power, but from divine faithfulness. The ray of light is on the way.

That promise finds its fulfillment in today's Gospel. What Isaiah foresaw in 735 B.C. is revealed in Jesus Christ. The Light has arrived; not in Jerusalem's palaces, but in Galilee, among ordinary people living normal, everyday struggles. Jesus begins His ministry in this very land, once devastated by darkness. He comes not only as the Light, but as the true leader the people had long awaited for: the one who heals, restores, and calls them out of chaos into meaning and hope.

In the Second Reading, St. Paul invites the Corinthians to step into that same light. Though they had received Christ, divisions and rivalries had crept into their community. Paul urges them to leave disunity, resentment, and quarrelling behind.



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These attitudes belong to the darkness. To live in Christ is to live differently: to shape our lives according to the example and pattern of the crucified Lord. Jesus Himself declares: “I am the light of the world!” To follow Him is to allow that light to enter our hearts and to transform our relationships. To live with Jesus, dear brothers and sisters, is to live with hope; a hope that does not fade even in moments of darkness and despair. As St. Paul reminds us: “Hope does not disappoint.” Christ is the light of hope; and once we receive that light, we are called to shine with it.

Many of us may remember the dramatic rescue of 33 Chilean miners in 2010. Trapped deep underground for 69 days, they faced complete darkness with no humanly-possible way out. Yet they did not lose hope. One of the miners, Jose Henriquez, was a man of faith. Each day, he led them in prayer. Surrounded by uncertainty, they placed their lives in God’s hands. Against all odds, a drill, guided in ways engineers could not explain, reached them. When the message, “We are alive and well!” reached the surface, the entire world rejoiced.

Later, the miners spoke of God as the “34<sup>th</sup> miner”—the unseen presence who sustained them in the darkness. Their story reminds us that even when all human solutions fail, the Light of God never abandons us.

Dear brothers and sisters, Christ is that Light. He walks with us through our fears, suffering, and confusion. Let us trust Him more than our own plans. Let us allow His light to heal our divisions, strengthen our faith, and guide our steps. In every dark moment of life, let us hold on to this hope: that the Light has come, and the darkness will never overcome it.