

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 58:3–9a

³ “Why have we fasted, and you see it not?
 Why have we humbled ourselves, and
 you take no knowledge of it?”
Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your
 own pleasure,
 and oppress all your workers.
⁴ Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
 and to hit with a wicked fist.
Fasting like yours this day
 will not make your voice to be heard on
 high.
⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
 a day for a person to humble himself?
Is it to bow down his head like a reed,
 and to spread sackcloth and ashes under
 him?
Will you call this a fast,
 and a day acceptable to the LORD?
⁶ “Is not this the fast that I choose:
 to loose the bonds of wickedness,
 to undo the straps of the yoke,
 to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?
⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the
 hungry
 and bring the homeless poor into your
 house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
 and not to hide yourself from your own
 flesh?
⁸ Then shall your light break forth like the
 dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up
 speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
 the glory of the Lord shall be your rear
 guard.
^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will
 answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I
 am.’”

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:1–12

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the

Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,
 “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
 nor the heart of man imagined,
 what God has prepared for those who love
 him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:13–20

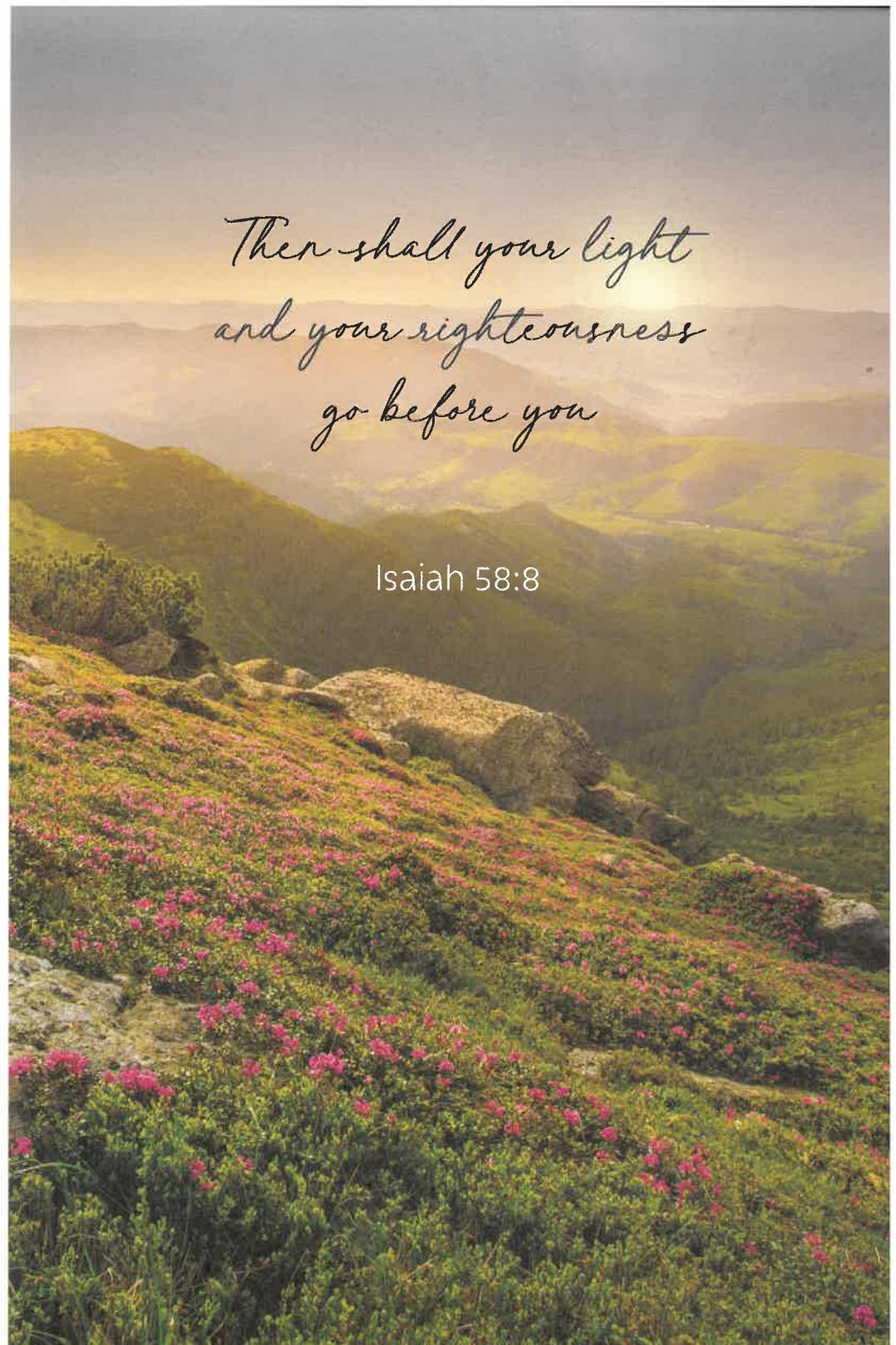
¹³[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

*Then shall your light
and your righteousness
go before you*

Isaiah 58:8



About the Cover: Like rays of light stretching out over the horizon, the Lord promises that repentance and sincerity will be met with a new dawn filled with righteousness, healing, and the Lord’s protection. Jesus has entered into the darkness of our sin through His death on the cross, but the break of a new day came on the first Easter morning to show us that He lives to bring us His righteousness, healing, and protection.

