

### Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 58:3–9a

- <sup>3</sup> “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.
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> 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?
- <sup>6</sup> “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?”
- <sup>7</sup> 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?
- <sup>8</sup> 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.
- <sup>9a</sup> 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

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

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

<sup>6</sup>Yet 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.  
<sup>7</sup>But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of  
God, which God decreed before the ages for our  
glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood  
this, for if they had, they would not have cruci-  
fied the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, 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”—

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through  
the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything,  
even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For who knows a  
person’s thoughts except the spirit of that per-  
son, which is in him? So also no one compre-  
hends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of  
God. <sup>12</sup>Now 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

<sup>13</sup>[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.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city set  
on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do people  
light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a  
stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In  
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.

<sup>17</sup>“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. <sup>18</sup>For 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. <sup>19</sup>Therefore 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. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteous-  
ness 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 pro-  
tection.

