

Xt.

The theme of the readings today is clearest if we START with the Gospel.

Pretty simple: Salt and Light.

GOSPEL

Salt and **Light** both are useful. They change our lives. Salt preserves, especially in warm climates. Salt was so valuable in the ancient world that “Salary” comes from SALT. Workers were paid in SALT. People traded with it, like we trade gold and stocks, and money. Salt also served a very useful purpose, especially in warmer climates before the invention of electricity and refrigeration. Salt not only gave flavor to food, it also preserved food from going bad and becoming spoiled. Think salty olives, dried meats and bacon (old fashioned air cured), sardines, bacalao.

SALT purifies, preserves, and adds flavor to our daily food. We, too, as disciples of Jesus, are "salt" for the world. The Lord wants **to work in and through us** to purify, preserve, and spread the rich flavor of God's kingdom for everyone, everywhere.

A LAMP describes how the disciples are to live in the light of truth. In Roman times the light of an olive oil lamp was a poor substitute in darkness for the Light of the Day. Xt says you need to put it on a lampstand. As natural light illumines darkness and enables everyone to see clearly, so the light of Christ shining in our hearts enables us to see God's kingdom better. Our mission is to be light-bearers of Jesus Christ so that others may see the truth of the gospel and be freed from the blindness of sin, deception of the world, and ignorance of Life's Purpose. Doing that, WE see better!

Blindness was a BIG problem in those days, but it is still around today. My cousin Ed, has been blind for most of his now 90 years. That has not prevented him from becoming an attorney, playing music and cards, attending Mass every Sunday, and doing good. WHY? His life is ‘illuminated’ by his strong Catholic faith. We could say the same of Stevie Wonder or Ray Charles. Faith helped them overcome being black and blind. TWO strikes. One, I think Ray Charles, could not play the piano as a kid—because the piano was in the WHITE school for the blind! He IS a light for all to see. [more on blindness Mar. 22]

This the cast's behind the scenes recording of GODSPEL's “Salt of the World” excellent quality

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQhQuPiBmNU>

Movie version of GODSPEL (not a good, but a visual)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRzqwSUIvmU>

re-mastered ONLY soundtrack but good quality

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrqmKprsF8k&list=PLG1gqMaCbR-xFLPnDw8ZpdJfyfZzzPFBT&index=26>

video of several songs from the GODSPEL Broadway revival, in 2011, including Salt of the World.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HIMI8XhLxc>

The Lord has already called his disciples the "salt of the earth" because they, like Paul, can “season” the hearts of men. Epistle Paul says: I brought not clever ‘argumentation’, like the Greek philosophers, but the LIGHT of the Spirit. And the FOLLY of the **CROSS.

*For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you
except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*

[**see attached Crucifix PowerPoint pics]

This Light of Truth, the Light of HIS Truth, is brighter than reasoning for the wise.

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Here are two quotes of Paul that the power of his preaching comes from the **CROSS** of **XT**.

It was not his skill at oratory, but the **POWER** of **XT** on the **CROSS**.

[Full frame w Pics on attached PP Crucifixion.]

1 Corinthians:1:23

but we proclaim **Christ crucified**,

a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,

1 Corinthians 2:2

For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you

Except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

Isaiah clearly shows that we **MOST** reflect the Light of God when we do good to the poor. They cannot pay us back. Period. Your **LIGHT**, and mine, is brightest when it shows the **LIGHT** of God to the poor. **Isaiah** lists them:

Share your bread with the hungry,

shelter the oppressed and the **homeless**;

clothe the naked when you see them,

and do **not turn your back** on your own.

If you remove from your midst oppression,

false accusation and malicious speech;

if you bestow your **bread on the hungry**

and **satisfy the afflicted**; {take care of those in trouble}

Isaiah lists the **Corporal Works of Mercy**. The St. Vincent de Paul Society, Salvation Army, Washington City Mission, et al., **DO IT**. They join **Isaiah** and those following the **CHRIST**.

Psalm: How do we spread the light? Be honest, truthful and upright in your life. "Show this especially in your treatment of the "POOR". They cannot repay you. They have no power to help you get ahead. Your good deed, however, has **POWER** because it reflects the Light of God.