

First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

A reading from the 58th Chapter of Isaiah.

Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,

to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness

and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments;

they want God on their side.

"Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day

and oppress all your workers.

You fast only to quarrel and to fight

and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today

will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,

a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush

and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,

a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

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 them

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up quickly;

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your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

A reading from the 2nd Chapter of 1st Corinthians.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters,
I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you
with superior speech or wisdom.
For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ
and him crucified.
And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling.
My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom
but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom
but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom,
though it is not a wisdom of this age
or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed.

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But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery,
which God decreed before the ages for our glory
and which none of the rulers of this age understood,
for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

God has revealed to us through the Spirit,
for the Spirit searches everything,
even the depths of God.

For what human knows what is truly human
except the human spirit that is within?

So also no one comprehends what is truly God's
except the Spirit of God.

Now we have received not the spirit of the world
but the Spirit that is from God,
so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**