

BIBLE READINGS – SUNDAY 8th February

Isaiah 58:5-9a

Do you think the LORD
wants you to give up eating
and to act as humble
as a bent-over bush?
Or to dress in sackcloth
and sit in ashes?
Is this really what he wants
on a day of worship?
⁶ I'll tell you
what it really means
to worship the LORD.
Remove the chains of prisoners
who are bound unjustly.
Free those who are abused!
⁷ Share your food with everyone
who is hungry;
share your home
with the poor and homeless.
Give clothes to those in need;
don't turn away your relatives.
⁸ Then your light will shine
like the dawning sun, and you
will quickly be healed.
Your honesty will protect you
as you advance,
and the glory of the LORD
will defend you from behind.
⁹ When you beg the LORD for help,
he will answer, "Here I am!"

This is the Word of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 2:6-12

⁶ We do use wisdom when speaking to people who are mature in their faith. But it isn't the wisdom of this world or of its rulers, who will soon disappear. ⁷ We speak of God's hidden and mysterious wisdom that God decided to use for our glory long before the world began. ⁸ The rulers of this world didn't know anything about this wisdom. If they had known about it, they would not have nailed the glorious Lord to a cross. ⁹ But it is just as the Scriptures say,
"What God has planned
for people who love him
is more than eyes have seen
or ears have heard.
It has never even
entered our minds!"

¹⁰ God's Spirit has shown you everything. His Spirit finds out everything, even what is deep in the mind of God. ¹¹ You are the only one who knows what is in your own mind, and God's Spirit is the only one who knows what is in God's mind. ¹² But God has given us his Spirit. This is why we don't think the same way that the people of this world think. This is also why we can recognize the blessings God has given us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Matthew 5:13-20

¹³ You are the salt for everyone on earth. But if salt no longer tastes like salt, how can it make food salty? All it is good for is to be thrown out and walked on.

¹⁴ You are the light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden, ¹⁵ and no one lights a lamp and puts it under a clay pot. Instead, it is placed on a lampstand, where it can give light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ Make your light shine, so others will see the good you do and will praise your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ Don't suppose I came to do away with the Law and the Prophets. I did not come to do away with them, but to give them their full meaning. ¹⁸ Heaven and earth may disappear. But I promise you not even a period or comma will ever disappear from the Law. Everything written in it must happen.

¹⁹ If you reject even the least important command in the Law and teach others to do the same, you will be the least important person in the kingdom of heaven. But if you obey and teach others its commands, you will have an important place in the kingdom. ²⁰ You must obey God's commands better than the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law obey them. If you don't, I promise you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.