

Homily ~ OT III (A) > January 25th, 2026.

A few years ago, during a power outage, a family sat in total darkness. No phones, no candles - just silence and confusion. Then someone struck a single match. It did not light the whole house, but suddenly faces were visible, fear eased, and people knew where they were. One small light changed everything. That image helps us to understand today's readings.

Isaiah speaks to a people living in darkness - darkness of fear, exile, and uncertainty - and promises that a great Light will shine upon them. Matthew tells us clearly: that Light is Jesus Christ. "The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light" (Mt 4:16). Jesus begins His public ministry quietly, humbly, walking among ordinary people, yet bringing something radically new: repentance, hope, and the Kingdom of God.

The Responsorial Psalm echoes this joy: "*The Lord is my light and my salvation.*" Not a theory. Not an idea. A living presence. Jesus does not just point to the light - He is the Light who leads us out of sin, division, and despair. Saint Paul, in the second reading, reminds the Corinthians - and us - that living in the Light means rejecting divisions. The Corinthians were arguing over leaders like Paul, Apollos and Peter. Paul brings them back to the center, to Christ alone. It is a fact that when we live in the Light, rivalries fade, pride weakens, and unity becomes possible.

As every year, this year also Christians of different denominations are observing Unity Octave Prayer Week from January 18 through 25 all over the world for the unity among the Christians. In connection with it, today Pope Leo is celebrating a Mass in the Basilica of St. Paul's outside the walls in Rome. Let us also pray for the unity among the Christians. Let there be one Shepherd and one flock as Jesus prayed.

In the Gospel, Jesus calls His first disciples - simple fishermen, with no formal religious training. Yet He says, "Follow me." And they do immediately. Their strength was not education or status, but availability. Filled later with the Holy Spirit, they became powerful instruments to carry Christ's light to the world.

Do you know that same call is given to us too?

First, we must appreciate our call to be Christ's disciples. It is both a gift and a responsibility. Through Baptism and Confirmation, we are claimed by Christ. Through the Eucharist and Reconciliation, we are strengthened and healed. Through prayer, Scripture, and the life of the Church, we are formed to live as children of the Light.

Second, we are called to proclaim the Good News - not always with words, but always with our lives. In our homes, workplaces, and communities, we are sent to reflect God's mercy, forgiveness, justice, and peace. The world does not need perfect Christians; it needs faithful witnesses.

As we continue this Holy Mass, let us ask the Lord for the grace to answer His call with courage and perseverance. May we allow Christ, the true Light, to shine through us - so that others, too, may find their way out of darkness and into the Kingdom of God.