



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 9, 2025

Beloved Pilgrims of Hope,

Greetings of peace, love, joy and hope!

“Called To a Life of Grace”

As we gather on this Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, our Readings are rich with meaning and invitation. They present to us the stories of three remarkable men from different eras—Isaiah, Paul, and Peter—each touched profoundly by the mercy of God. How wondrous it is to see God’s mercy at work in their lives! Despite their feelings of unworthiness—Isaiah, a man of unclean lips; Paul, who once persecuted Christians; and Peter, who saw himself as a sinful man—they were chosen by God. Their willingness to admit their faults and embrace God’s grace transformed them into faithful prophets and disciples.

These Readings invite us to look deeply within ourselves and reflect on our own presence before the Lord. They remind us that God’s mercy can work in us and through us if we open our hearts to His grace. Like Isaiah, Paul, and Peter, we too can become faithful servants of God and followers of Jesus if we allow His grace to envelop us.

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, proclaimed by Pope Francis, the lives of Isaiah, Paul, and Peter guide us on our journey of conversion and mission. Let us embrace this grace, allowing it to transform our lives and the world around us, just as it did for these three men of faith.

As we reflect on their journeys, we are also called to recognize the brokenness in our world and respond with hearts full of compassion and service. In a world that often feels fractured and in need of healing, let us be the hands and feet of Christ, reaching out to those in need, offering hope, and working toward justice and peace.

Like the three men of faith, may we never lose hope that we can become better if not the best, when we embrace the Lord in our lives. By listening to Him and experiencing His mercy, we will always have the opportunity to motivate our lives and others to be gracious and righteous. May we be inspired to serve our communities, support the vulnerable, and be beacons of God’s love in all that we do.

May we all be inspired to recognize our own limitations and sinfulness and be resolved to live righteously and devoutly as children of God and disciples of the Lord. Despite our sinfulness or unworthiness, we are called to a life of grace. And when we live this life of grace, great things can be done in the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Your fellow pilgrim in hope,

Fr. Pascual