



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 16, 2025

Beloved Pilgrims of Hope,

Greetings of peace, love, joy and hope!

### ***“Being Hopeful Always in the Lord”***

As we gather for this weekend’s liturgy, our response to the Psalm beautifully encapsulates the Lord’s message for us to reflect upon. The Prophet Jeremiah reminds us that those who place their trust and hope in the Lord are truly blessed. In our Gospel reading, Jesus speaks to His listeners about who is blessed and who is not. At first glance, His teachings may seem challenging to comprehend. We might mistakenly think that those who are rich, satisfied, joyful, and well-off are condemned. However, we know that God’s love embraces everyone without exception.

The core message is clear: those who are blessed are those who place their trust in the Lord rather than in the fleeting offerings of this world. Our responses and attitudes towards earthly and heavenly matters determine this blessing. The danger for someone who clings in hoping for worldly pursuits and attaches his or her life to it may feel fulfilled in this present life. Still, when all of these are gone, disappointments and frustrations take control, and eventually, hopelessness.

Each of us is faced with choices in life, and every choice carries its own rewards or consequences. The Gospel and the first reading present us with two distinct paths: one that is blessed and one that is accursed. These paths represent two very different perspectives on life. Many choose to follow the way of the Lord, while others prefer the way of the world. By listening to and living according to Christ’s teachings, we come to understand that true riches and happiness come from Him.

This understanding inspires us to embrace the Gospel values: the value of poverty, so we may be rich in God’s presence; the value of sacrifice, so we may learn to be generous; and the value of love, so we may share the blessings we have received from God, not only for our own good but for the good of others. Let us take a moment to reflect on where we place our trust. Is it in the hands of God or in the hands of the world?

May the Jubilee Year of Hope renew our hearts and strengthen our faith, guiding us to trust fully in the Lord and His everlasting love.

Your fellow pilgrim in hope,

Fr. Pascual