



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 8, 2025

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

“Called to Bring Flavor and Light to a Weary World”

Jesus offers us two simple yet profound images to help us understand our mission as His disciples: salt and light. Salt adds flavor and preserves what is good. Light dispels darkness and reveals what is true. These images are not merely poetic; they are deeply practical. They remind us that faith is not meant to be hidden or passive. It is meant to transform the world around us.

Being “salt of the earth” today means allowing Christ to give our lives meaning, purpose, and integrity. In a culture that often measures happiness by possessions, success, or comfort, Jesus invites us to discover a joy that does not fade. When we live our faith with sincerity, through compassion, honesty, forgiveness, and courage, we become instruments of hope for those who feel forgotten, strength for those who are weary, and peace for those whose hearts are troubled.

Jesus also calls us to be “light of the world.” This call feels especially urgent in our present moment. We live in a time marked by polarization, suspicion, and deep wounds, within families, communities, and even the Church. Public discourse has grown harsher. Truth is often overshadowed by noise. Many feel overwhelmed by the darkness of anger, fear, and uncertainty.

Yet Jesus reminds us that darkness does not have the final word. He is the Light that no darkness can overcome. When we allow His light to dwell within us, through prayer, the sacraments, and daily acts of charity, we become living signs of His presence. We become people who speak the truth with love, build bridges instead of walls, protect the dignity of every person, and refuse to let cynicism replace hope.

This is not easy work, but it is holy work. And it is needed now more than ever.

So we pause and ask ourselves: Have I allowed Christ to infuse my life with meaning and purpose? Have I brought His light into the conversations, relationships, and situations entrusted to me? Have I been a source of healing rather than division, of truth rather than confusion, of hope rather than despair?

Jesus does not call us to perfection. He calls us faithfulness. When we respond to His invitation, even in small ways, He uses our lives to illuminate the world.

May the Lord strengthen you to be salt that preserves what is good and light that reveals His love.

May His peace rest upon you and your family.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual