

to those inside to open the door of their own accord and allow Christ to come in. Hunt was probably echoing the words of Jesus in Revelation 3:20, "Here I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me". In biblical times, clay lamps, fuelled by olive oil, were the main source of light. In the Church, before the advent of electric light, candles were used for centuries to illuminate services. Candles, lit by believers when offering up prayers, are still integral to worship.

-Jane Stilling

Entrance antiphon: The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

First Reading: Jeremiah 20: 10-13

Responsorial Psalm: 68. Response: In your great love, answer me, O God.

Second Reading: Romans 5 12-15

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew: 10: 26-33

Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

"Don't judge without having heard both sides. Even persons who think themselves virtuous very easily forget this elementary rule of prudence."— Josemaría Escrivá



William Holman Hunt



Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A, 2023 Weekly Reflection:

The person of Jesus Christ: 4) "I am the light of the world" (Gospel of St John ch 8 v 6) This is the fourth illustration of the

Person of Jesus in the Gospel of John. In this verse, Jesus says "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Jesus was speaking figuratively, as darkness represented unbelief or evil, whereas light represented having a living faith in God. In the beginning of the Gospel, St John states that "in Him (i.e. Jesus) was light and the light was the light of men" (John ch 1 v 4) and that "the light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it" (John ch 1 v 5).

This theme is emphasised in other parts of the Gospel: in John ch 9 v 5, Jesus says "while I am in the world, I am the light of the world ". He then demonstrated this by healing a man born blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made mud and applied the mud to the man's eyes. He instructed him to wash in the Pool of Siloam. The man did so and could see immediately. This healing caused great controversy amongst the Pharisees, because Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath. The man proclaimed his healing and, despite opposition, came and worshipped Jesus (John ch 9 38). Again in John ch 12 v 46, Jesus says, "I have come into the world as a light, so that no-one who believes in me should stay in darkness". Even after all these miraculous healings many did not believe. Some did believe but were afraid of being cast out of the synagogue, if they maintained their belief.

There is a well-known portrait of Jesus in a painting by Holman Hunt, entitled 'The Light of the World'. It shows the risen Christ, with a crown of thorns on his head, standing by a closed door, one hand is holding up a lantern, which lightens the darkness, while the other hand is raised, ready to knock on the door. In the painting there is no handle on the outside of the door. It is left