

We just heard in the first reading, the most horrible single sentence in the whole bible. They mocked the messenger of God, despised his warnings and scoffed at his prophets until the anger of the Lord against his people was so inflamed there was no remedy.

What horrible words. Like the words of the doctor telling my family four months ago that my dad had cancer.

But then we hear, slightly later in that first reading, that God did discover a remedy. He forgave everything, and everyone, and helped the people start over again.

And what do you think about it now? Do you think we are much better than the Jews of the Old Testament. Doesn't our world today still mock God, ignore God, scoff at the prophets, and fall into a thousand sins of infidelity, greed, laziness, gluttony, anger, jealousy, lust and selfishness. Do you think maybe things are so bad there is no remedy for the world, or the Church, or your family, or you, or me, or our children?

St. Paul says, don't despair, there is remedy, because God is "rich in mercy." Not rich in land, rich in money, rich in precious stones, rich in abilities ... but rich in something that matters. Our God is rich in mercy. And, St. Paul says: "Nosotros estabamos muertos por nuestros pecados, y el – Dios – nos dio la vida con Cristo y en Cristo."

There is a remedy. We are saved by living with Christ and in Christ. This is what St. Paul calls faith: living with Christ and in Christ. It's grace.

Is living with Christ and in Christ easy? No, it's hard. Because, the Gospel explains, Christ is light, and if you live with Christ you have to live in light, with all the lights turned on.

Let me explain. A while back I read a strange interview with a very vain Hollywood star. Once a great beauty, she was now old. "How do you try to remain young?" she was asked. "I have no mirrors in the house to remind me I'm old," she said. "And I use only pink darkened lights so no one can see my wrinkles and blemishes."

The wicked part of us would like to live like that, would like living in the darkness like ignoring that we have sins, that we carry around jealousy, lust, anger, pride, that we are withholding forgiveness from others while pretending that we're so good. And so many other sins.

Notice this. The remedy isn't that you get rid of all the sins. That probably is impossible because we are so weak. No, the remedy is that we live with and in Christ, with the lights all turned on, and constantly admit to God how weak and sinful we are and how much we need him.

And when we're in that state of mind, God gives us, immediately, constantly, for our remedy ... the beautiful, holy, Savior Jesus Christ. Let's admit our sins, and ask God to give us the remedy now, at this Mass.