

July 25

You've been asking that it be made clear what your mission is. You already know what your mission is: your mission is to shine the light and let the whole world see. Your mission is to advance Christ's kingdom through worship. If we've learned anything in this parish in the last 15 years, we've learned something about how to worship. But we've got to shine our light so the whole world sees. We've got to keep taking this worship out of these little walls so the whole world sees as a group, but also individually. You have to live your life as worship wherever you are, whatever you're doing so your light will shine and the whole world will see. Yes, you can worship as a group with music and dance and at the altar. You should do that – you should continue to do that and continue to go out and do that. But you can also worship when you're at work and when you're at school and when you're out in the community in the way you live. You need to do that, too, so the whole world can see so that you can shine. So Christ's kingdom, My Kingdom, can be advanced through worship. That's the only way it's advanced. It's not advanced in power or through force or through coercion. It is advanced through worship.

I confirm that word. What I heard through all the praise and worship songs was "God's Resume." He is our Father, He is mighty to save, He said it – it was done and that last little bit is our part. But we keep stepping in to His shoes trying to do His job. And we keep trying to be the one who is mighty to save and the one who speaks and it is done, and to accomplish all these things in our own strength. When all we have to do is shine the light so the whole world sees. I'm reminded of Kari, because she's always saying, "Well, why are you worried about that? That's God's job. He will take care of that. That's God's job." So I think we just need to remember what God is supposed to do and the one little thing He asks us to do – not keep getting into His job description. He is the One who is mighty to save. He is the One who is our Father. He is the One who spoke and said it was done. Once He said it was done why do we keep trying to redo it and fix it? It's done. Let's just do our part and shine.

We try to complicate things. It's simple, not always easy but we can figure it out if we're faithful and shine our light.

I remember years and years ago we took Christopher to see Steven Curtis Chapman in Greenville back when the Newsboys were a warm-up band. And they came out to do their song "Shine" and they were all wearing what looked like aluminum foil – very bright and lights flashing. The guy in his Australian accent said "Shine! Make 'em wonder what you've got. Make 'em wish they were not on the outside looking bored." I think that's part of it too. If you're not shining enough so they wonder what you've got, you're not shining enough. And sometimes you look a little weird when you're doing

that.

What I keep hearing over and over is: The tomb is still empty. I'm not sure how to analyze that, but I'm going to throw it out there. The tomb is still empty. What that means to me is "be encouraged." He conquered death. It's still conquered. You don't have anything to be afraid of. There is nothing to be afraid of in this world. Even death can't stop you. Even death can't stop God. The tomb is still empty. He's still victorious. Yes, the world is a hard place, a difficult place, a dangerous place, a painful place – that's not changed. Something major has changed. The hole opened in the cosmos when Jesus rose from the grave. The tomb is still empty and death is still dead. It isn't master over any of us anymore.

The Lord is saying He's very, very pleased that different parts of His body are gathered here this morning to praise Him with one voice. And He's saying get used to it, because this is how it's going to end up being – not a bunch of denominations. It's going to be one body.

I heard the Lord say early on, "I'm happy to be here."

We're unique in the world. With God's grace and help, there can be more of us – share the light with others.