

NAMASTE

I See the Divine Spark Within You

Call to Prayer

(Mark Link, S.J.— adapted)

Leader:

Jesus said,

“I am the light of the world. . . .

Whoever follows me

will have the light of life

And will never walk in darkness.” (John 8:12)

Lord Jesus, you said that where two or three

come together in your name,

You are there with them.

The light of this candle

Symbolizes your presence among us.

And so, let us remember...

All: That we are in the holy presence of God.

A Reading

(adapted from My Grandfather's Blessings, by Rachel Naomi Remen, MD)

According to ancient spiritual writings, at some point in the beginning of things, the Holy was broken up into countless sparks, which were scattered throughout the universe.

There is a God spark in everyone and everything, a sort of diaspora of goodness. God's immanent presence among us is encountered daily in the most simple, humble, and

ordinary ways. The Holy may speak to you from its many hidden places at any time.

The world may whisper in your ear, or the spark of God may whisper in your heart.

Blessings come in forms as simple as the greeting commonly used in India. On meeting even a total stranger, one bows and says NAMASTE: I see the divine spark within you.

Here we are too often fooled by someone's appearance, their age or illness or anger or meanness or we are just too busy to recognize that there is in everyone a place of

goodness and integrity, no matter how deeply buried. We are too hurried or distracted to

stop and bear witness to it. When we recognize the spark of God in others, we blow on it with our attention and strengthen it, no matter how deeply it has been buried or for how long. When we bless someone, we touch the unborn goodness in them and wish it well.

- pause for reflection -

Scripture

(from Psalm 139)

Yahweh, you search me and know me.
You know if I am standing or sitting.
You perceive my thoughts from far away.
Whether I walk or lie down, you are watching;
 you are familiar with all my ways.
Before a word is even on my tongue, Yahweh,
 you know it completely.
Close behind and close in front you hem me in,
 shielding me with your hand.
Such knowledge is beyond my understanding,
 too high beyond my reach.
Where could I go to escape your spirit?
Where could I flee from your presence?
If I climb to the heavens, you are there;
 there, too, if I sink to Sheol.
If I flew to the point of sunrise -
 or far across the sea -
your hand would still be guiding me,
 your right hand holding me.
If I asked darkness to cover me
 and light to become night around me,
that darkness would not be dark to you;
 night would shine as the day.
You created my inmost being
 and knit me together in my mother's womb.
For all these mysteries -
 for the wonder of myself,
 for the wonder of your works -
I thank you.

Closing Prayer

(Mark Link, S.J.—Adapted)

Leader: We conclude our prayer this morning by listening to Jesus speak to us:

“You are the light of the world.
A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.
No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket;
instead, the lamp is put on a lamp stand,
where it gives light to everyone in the house.
In the same way, your light must shine before all people..
—Matthew 5: 14-16

(Someone extinguishes the candle.)

The light of this candle is now extinguished. But the light of Christ in each of us must continue to shine in our hearts and in our lives.

***Saint John Baptist De La Salle...Pray for us!
Live, Jesus, in our hearts...Forever!***