**THURSDAY JANUARY 27 – THIRD WEEK O.T. [C]**

**"Is a lamp brought in to be placed under a bushel basket or under a bed, and not to be placed on a lampstand?”**

**The Lamp God the Lord has lighted and put on the lampstand of the world and it must remain upon it until the day of the creation of new heavens and of a new earth is Christ Jesus. It is righteous thing to read the decree of the Lord in the same way as it is proclaimed by the Psalm: “Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles.” The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, “I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain.” I will proclaim the Lord’s decree: He said to me, “You are my son; today I have become your father. Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.” Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling. Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, or his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him. (Psal 2,1-12) The decree is eternal and unmodifiable.**

**Not only on earth, but also in heavens Jesus is the Lamp who will have to enlighten the Holy Jerusalem eternally: “I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb. The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and to it the kings of the earth will bring their treasure. During the day its gates will never be shut, and there will be no night there. The treasure and wealth of the nations will be brought there, but nothing unclean will enter it, nor any (one) who does abominable things or tells lies. Only those will enter whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will look upon his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. (Rev 21, 22-27; 22, 3-4) Jesus is the Lamp who will eternally enlighten all those who have believe in Him and have consecrated their life in Him.**

**However, since the day of his glorious ascension into heaven Jesus has become invisible light. How can one follow a light one is not able to see? Jesus has arranged for. He has constituted his body that is the Church as his light in the world. In this visible body that is the Church, everyone must shine in the world with his particular light, given to him by the Holy Spirit: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” (Mt 5, 13-16) If every member of the body of Christ is lamp lighted by the Holy Spirit and placed on the lampstand of history, if it is light, one sees light and it attracts to Christ Jesus. Today we must confess that, having the Christian burnt out the lamp, he has not only burnt out its light, he has also burnt out the light of Jesus the Lord. In fact, when the Christian burns out the light of Christ in him, in him also the light of his wisdom and intelligence is burnt out. One burns out the light of the Word of the Gospel. One burns out the light of the truth of the Holy Spirit. One burns out the light of the entire mystery of God the Father, of Christ Jesus, of the Holy Spirit. One burns out the mystery of the Church, the mystery of salvation, the mystery of redemption. One burns out the own mystery of man, the mystery of time, the mystery of eternity. The Christian comes back into a greater and denser darkness than that left when he had not become light of Christ.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 4,21-25**

**He said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be placed under a bushel basket or under a bed, and not to be placed on a lampstand? For there is nothing hidden except to be made visible; nothing is secret except to come to light. Anyone who has ears to hear ought to hear." He also told them, "Take care what you hear. The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you, and still more will be given to you. To the one who has, more will be given; from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.**

**How do we realise that today the Christian has returned to be darkness of the world, stopping being light of Christ Jesus? From the words of darkness he says. Here are some words of darkness: the Church of the living God is no longer necessary for the salvation. Every religion is a way of salvation. One must no longer speak of the superiority of Christ Jesus in relation to the other founders of religion. All the founders are equal and all religions are equal. None is superior or truer than another one. One must no longer speak about the true God that is only the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and about Jesus Christ who is the eternal Son of the Father. One must only speak about the unique God, namely about the God who is as the God of every other people and of every other religion. Thus saying for us truth and falsity, darkness and light, true God and idols are one only thing. May the Mother of God watch over us.**