

*St. Andrew Kim is the first native Korean priest. He was tortured and beheaded in 1846. St. Paul Chong Hasang was a Korean Catholic lay leader who defended the faith, and reunited the Christians. He was martyred in 1839.*



**First Reading: (Ezra 1:1-6)** In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel - he is the God who is in Jerusalem; and let each survivor, in whatever place he sojourns, be assisted by the men of his place with silver and gold, with goods and with beasts, besides freewill offerings for the house of God which is in Jerusalem." Then rose up the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and

Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, every one whose spirit God had stirred to go up to rebuild the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem; and all who were about them aided them with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, with beasts, and with costly wares, besides all that was freely offered.

*Ps 125*

**R./ What marvels the Lord worked for us!**

**Gospel: (Lk 8:16-18)** Jesus said to the crowds, "No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a vessel, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is hid that shall not be made manifest, nor anything secret that shall not be known and come to light. Take heed then how you hear; for to him who has will more be given, and from him who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away."

**REFLECTION**

The gospel says: "Everything will be revealed." The light of truth will shine even in the midst of darkness, even in the thick of lies and oppression. Nobody can destroy the truth. That is its beauty, its power. Truth is truth even if all are against it; lie is lie even if all are for it. Ultimately, only truth will prevail. God's word is a lamp that shines and spreads light through every Christian. It is the light of Christ that we should spread, not our own interests. **Educate your heart and train your mind; the knowledge you earn is your greatest asset.** Nobody can take it away from you. You will surely agree with a Tibetan proverb which says: The secret of living well and longer is this: "Eat half, walk double, laugh triple, and love without measure!"