

FEBRUARY 5, 2017
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER
EPIPHANY



You are the light of the world for others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light
Monday	Isaiah 58:1-12	God desires kindness and justice
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	Spiritual wisdom
Wednesday	Colossians 4:2-6	Conversation seasoned with salt
Thursday	Ephesians 5:3-14	You are light in the Lord
Friday	1 Thessalonians 5:4-11	You are children of the light
Saturday	Psalms 112	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Matthew 5:21-37	Teachings of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven.” **Matthew 5:16 (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, be our light when darkness surrounds us. Shine over us, in us, and through us. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Jesus our Savior, thank you for this food, so full of flavor. Jesus our Light, may we shine for you, with love so bright. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Spirit of Christ give light to your life and shine before others, so that others may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

This Little Light of Mine



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Reflect on a time you were in a dark place and needed light to help you.
- In Matthew 5:13-20, Jesus points out that his disciples make a positive difference in the world. How is Christian behavior based on wisdom that is not like the wisdom of the world (1 Corinthians 2:1-12)?
- Tell about someone whose life has helped you see God in the world?

DEVOTIONS



Read Matthew 5:13-20 using a simple form of *lectio divina* (divine reading). Read the text two times slowly, pausing after each reading. Choose a word or phrase from the text that gets your attention. Focus on that word or phrase for awhile. Then read the text again and wonder how the message connects with your life today. Read the passage a fourth time and spend some time reflecting on how this passage might direct your life to some action in the next few days. Conclude with a prayer giving thanks for the words of Jesus to be light and salt to the world.

SERVICE



Read Isaiah 58:6-8. The prophet describes the people of God as light shining in the world through human activity that focuses on the care of others. The examples include feeding the hungry, caring for the homeless, treating others with kindness, and showing hospitality. Commit to some specific act of kindness during the week or financially support an organization that offers help to those in need.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



With your household or a small group, use the following lighting service at the beginning of a meal, Bible study, or prayer group. [Light one or more candles and say the following]

Leader: We give thanks that Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

All: The light no darkness can overcome.

Leader: Let our lights shine before others.

All: That others may see our good works and give glory to God.

Conclude by singing *This Little Light of Mine*.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org