

**Church of the Divine Love**

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**FEBRUARY 5, 2023 10:15 AM**

**HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II**

THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for the New Year – on insert

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation

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Collect for Purity

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Gloria

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Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12)**

Psalm 112:1-9, (10)

Second Lesson: **1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)**

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **Matthew 5:13-20**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed

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Prayers of the People, Form VI

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The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #

Doxology (sung)	
The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer D	page 372
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 373
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn #	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #	
Dismissal	

### **Sermon Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Isaiah 58: 1-9a, (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20**

Sisters and brothers, who are you? Have you ever asked yourself how to be an ambassador of the Kingdom of God on earth? How do you behave in this world to carry out your faith as a Christian? How do you answer when someone asks you that question? The most common answer is to give our name. We might also tell a bit of family history and the connections that help identify us. Often, we'll tell something about our work, the things we do, and how we spend our time. I cannot, however, think of a single time when I ever answered that question by saying, "Oh, I'm the salt of the earth. I'm the light of the world." How about you? Have you ever answered that way? Has anyone ever answered you that way? Maybe, but I'm guessing probably not.

Why not? Even if we've never said it aloud do, we ever think of ourselves that way? Do we know that about ourselves? Jesus knows that about us. Jesus thinks that about us. Jesus even says that about us. It's right there in today's gospel (Matthew 5:13-20.) "You are the salt of the earth.... You are the light of the world." Don't think this is about somebody other than you. Jesus isn't talking to particular individuals. He's talking to the crowds that have followed him from Galilee, the ten cities known as the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. That means they have come from everywhere. They have come to see this one they have heard about. They have come to listen and learn, to be healed, and to have their lives put back together. They have come in search of meaning, direction, and purpose. You and I stand among that crowd. We are one of them. We have come today to see this one

we have heard about. We have come to listen and learn, to be healed, and to have our lives put back together. We have come in search of meaning, direction, and purpose. Jesus' words are as true and applicable today as they were two thousand years ago. "You are the salt of the earth.... You are the light of the world."

Jesus doesn't stop there, however. There are profound implications to being named salt and light. It means that we are to flavor the world. We are to season and transform human activity in such a way that it reveals God in this world. It means we are to help people better see God's life in theirs. It means we are to enlighten the dark places of the world. You and I are the means by which God flavors and illuminates life and the world. Christ has given us the salt and light of his divinity not just for ourselves but that others might eat and see better. The salt of divinity that was poured into our hands we are to sprinkle onto the world. The light of divinity that fills our hearts and minds is to shine on and brighten all of life. So, what does that look like? What does that mean for us? It's really pretty practical and tangible. It's something that can be tasted and seen. It makes a difference in the world and to other people.

The prophet Isaiah speaks of losing the bonds of injustice and letting the oppressed go free. So maybe salt and light look like politics that are not dependent on control and power, that establish a society of equality and diversity, and that recognize the dignity of every human being. It is faithfulness and commitment to others shown by listening, being available, and spending time. It would mean slowing down, rearranging your schedule, and valuing presence over efficiency and productivity. It is choosing a life of self-giving rather than taking and acquiring, vulnerability rather than defensiveness, and intimacy rather than isolation. It means you might, and probably will, get hurt. It is loving God, your neighbor, your enemy, and yourself. It means choice overcomes feelings. Where is the salt and light in your life? What does it look like? How does it show up? There are probably as many expressions and manifestations of salt and light as there are people. Ultimately though, they always look like the life of Jesus Christ.

To live as salt of the earth and light of the world is to know our deepest, truest, and most authentic self. It is the life we long for and the life God desires us to have. It is both who we are and how we are to be. That's why Jesus is so adamant that we not lose our saltiness and we not hide our light. To do so is to lose and hide our life. To do so, in some way, denies Christ. Salt that has no flavor and light that is hidden are worthless. They are not really themselves. They are neither true nor authentic. They are not real. That's neither what we want nor what God intends for us. No one says, Pass the salt please, hoping that the flavor of their food will stay the same. No one walks into a room, flips the switch, and hopes the light won't come on. Yet, we have all known times like that, times when our insides and outsides don't line up, when something is amiss, and we are just not ourselves.

If we are salt and if we are light then we ought to be tasted and seen by the world. If our relationships are bland and flavorless, if our world is dark and filled with shadows, maybe we have not been faithful to or trusting of our own saltiness and light. Maybe we have forgotten who we are. Maybe we never knew. Regardless of where we are in life or our faith, I think we are all looking for the salt and the light within us and how we can best be that for others. "You are the salt of the earth.... You are the light of the world." With those words Jesus is declaring what already is. He is making a statement of fact. This doesn't mean we must become something we're not already. It means we are to become, live into, and manifest what we already are. That is both the good news and the challenge, to believe and become what we already are. It is some of our most difficult and most important work.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, behold the salt that you already are. Behold the light that you already are. Become that for the life of the world. Let them taste and see. I can't tell you how to do that. It will be unique to each of our lives. It will be particular and specific to our individual circumstances and relationships. I don't exactly know what you will do, where you will sprinkle your salt, or where you will shine your light, but I know this. In whatever ways you do that, wherever you do that, on whomever you do that, you will reveal the embodiment of God in humanity, God with us. In that moment they and you will taste life and see the world as never before.

The meaning, significance, and purpose of our life are found in the life and well-being of another. Every time we offer forgiveness, seek reconciliation, or act with compassion we sprinkle salt. Every time we speak a word of hope, work for justice, or do for another what we would have them do of us our light pushes back the darkness. Much of our world is dark and tasteless.

Beloveds, if we are salt, we must give taste to the earth. We cannot play hide and seek if we are the light of the world. We must be flavorful and visible. But salt is never salt for itself. Salt gives taste to other ingredients. Light is not useful in lightness. Light is useful in darkness. An ambassador is not sent just to deliver speeches. Her/his job is to represent her/his roots by action. We are sent into a world of hatred to show the way of love. The way of love starts with turning (change), then goes to learn, pray, worship, bless, go, and finishes with rest. May God, who is light and love, fill us with the ability and capacity to be salt on the tastebuds of a world surrounded by meanness and light for a world swimming in darkness, let them taste and see, for you are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. **Amen!**

5 EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		FOLLOWED BY PARISH ANNUAL MEETING	
MONDAY	8:00 PM	AA MEETING	
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING	
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
	8:00 PM	AA MEETING	
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
6 EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Roe Prosser	Jess Berbeck
Coffee Hour	Annual Meeting	Jess Berbeck

**PARISH PRAYER LIST**

Give to all who suffer the refreshing waters of your compassion and healing. Make them dwell in the safety of your care even in the midst of all that troubles them. Especially we remember before you:

Grace Schinella	Lourdes S.	Bob Curley
John Mulligan	Arlene Goodenough	Celeste
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Deb P.
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Gabriel
Barbara Stinson	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Anthony
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Carolyn
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Ciara	Robert Sweat	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Sophia	Carol K.
People of Haiti	Christopher & Family	Julia

Mary & Family

People of Ukraine

Tim

Nathan Treadwell

Vincent

Art

Margaret

Kaylee

Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.  
Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen

The departed: Harriet Capers