

Church of the Divine Love

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 8, 2026 10:15 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

A Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank You For allowing us to see a brand -new day. For this, we give You Praise! Lord, we lift up our concerns, worries, and burdens before You, knowing that You are with us in every step of the way. Fill us with Your peace that surpasses all understanding, calming our hearts and reassuring us of Your unfailing presence. Deliver us from the evil one and keep us safe from all harm, known and unknown. In the precious name of Jesus. Amen

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect for 5 Epiphany page 216

First Lesson: **Isaiah 58:1-9a; (9b-12)** *(pages 637 in the Bible)*

Psalm 112:1-9; (10) page 755

Second Lesson: **1 Corinthians 2:1-12; (13-16)** *(page 992)*

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **Matthew 5:13-20** *(page 838)*

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Confession page 393

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer A page 361

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer page 337

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father, I adore you, Lay my life before you, How I love you.

(repeat twice with 2nd verse starting with Jesus, and 3rd verse starting with Spirit)

The Communion of the People - All baptized Christians, regardless of age, are welcome to receive Communion.

Communion Hymn #

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace page 815

Prayer for the Parish page 817

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn #

Dismissal

Sermon Sunday February 8, 2026

Isaiah 58: 1-9a, (9b-120; Psalm 112: 1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12, (13-16); Matthew 5: 13-20.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Who are you? 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've come from everywhere. They've come to see this one they've heard about. They've come to listen and learn, to be healed, and to have their lives put back together. They've come in search of meaning, direction, and purpose. You and I stand among that crowd. We're one of them. We've come today to see this one we've heard about. We've come to listen and learn, to be healed, and to have our lives put back together. We've 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. It is looking another in the eyes, speaking a kind word, and acknowledging him or her as having been created in the image and likeness of God.

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. Would you support that kind

of legislation? Vote for that kind of candidate? Maybe even campaign as that candidate? 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. light of the world, **Matthew 5:13-20**, Let them taste and see.

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 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're not really themselves. They are neither true nor authentic. They're 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've all known times like that, times when our insides and outsides don't line up, when something is amiss, and we're 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've not been faithful to or trusting of our own saltiness and light. Maybe we've forgotten who we are. Maybe we never knew.

"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. I remember at a Eucharistic celebration the priest would point to the gifts, the bread and wine become body and blood, and say:" behold what you are, become what you see."

I think that's what Jesus is saying in today's gospel. 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. **Amen!**

5 EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
MONDAY	8:00 PM	AA MEETING
TUESDAY	6:00 PM	BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP

LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
	COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER, FEBRUARY 17th, 6:00PM

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Dana Kenn	Roe Prosser
Coffee Hour	Dave Treasure	Giordanos

SUPPORT THE FOOD BANK, DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Barbara Curran	Betty Curley	Martin
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Joseph
Chris Dickson	John Rocco	Donny
John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Bobby
Scottie Credendino	Michael	Ryan
Sister Eddie	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Beverly Noel	Phil Ryder	Jill
Anthony Paribello	Jonathan	Aika
Donna Amundsen	Kate Jones	Jan
Timothy Treasure	Vincent & Barbara	Sandy
Mary & Family	Wendy	Jay
Gladys Hadija	Sophia	Aidan
Michael & Family	Donna A	Mo
Michelle & Family	Christopher	Annie
Moises Parra	Misael Varas	Cary
Warren		

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disaster.

The homeless and food insecure.

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.

To add or make changes to the prayer list during the week,
email Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

