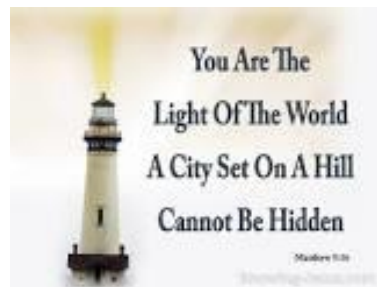


Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 5, 2023

Let Your Light So Shine – That others may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we lose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.



Prelude – Lillian Pinkston

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

P: Peace and Light be with you!

C: **And also with you.**

Call to Worship

A: God has commissioned us to pay attention

C: **To notice, to care, to feel with, to serve.**

A: God has commissioned us to serve.

C: **By sharing the burdens of injustice and with sisters and brothers.**

A: God has commissioned us to serve.

C: **By sharing the oppression of silence.**

A: God has commissioned us to serve.

C: **By sharing our bread, our homes, our money.**

All: **There is no answer but, Yes. Yes, I will.**

Gathering Hymn – “Gather Us In” ELW #532

<https://youtu.be/ar0BXa82F9M>

by Marty Haugen

Invocation and Confession

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all.

C: If we say that we have fellowship with God while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true.

P: But if we walk in the light as God himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,.

C: and the blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Almighty God,

C: You dwell in light unapproachable. Unprotected, we perish in your presence, for our hearts are darkened, our minds beclouded.

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world; the light no darkness can overcome.

C: For his sake we beg forgiveness.

P: For his sake God hears your prayer. God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in your hearts, to give you the light of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

C: We have seen the Lord’s glory we have heard the Lord’s voice.

P: Walk, then, as children of light.

C: Amen.

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen and Amen.

Hymn of Praise – “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” ELW #843

<https://youtu.be/5VwjcpXJVb8>

by Koine

Prayer of the Day

A: Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you.

C: By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Word

Old Testament reading – Isaiah 58:1-9 (9-12)

God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for faith that acts from the heart

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. ³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice? ”Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 112:1-9 (10)

Light shines in the darkness for the upright

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

²**Their descendants will be mighty | in the land; the generation of the upright | will be blessed.**

³Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴**Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶**For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸**Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

Epistle reading – 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,

nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God.

¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. ¹⁶"For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.]

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – Matthew 5:13-20
<https://youtu.be/S-koDM7kskc>

Be salt and light so others may see your good works and give glory to your Heavenly Father

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children of God Time
<https://youtu.be/HNGaNEBpUMw>

Homily – “Inside the Outside of Things”
<https://youtu.be/E0nzyaewkDw>

Hymn of the Day – “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” ELW #712

<https://youtu.be/MIPIyM2Qz4k>
by First-Plymouth Church – Lincoln Neb.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead,
on the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice (*injustice such as systemic racism, church sanction of colonialism, church protection of sexual abusers may be named*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you for (*the Martyrs of Japan and*) all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness. Keep them in our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

Offering

Offertory Music – “This Little Light of Mine”

ELW #677

<https://youtu.be/QCN893hzueQ>

by Prince George Episcopal Church

Offertory Prayer

A: You call us to shine, O God –

C: to shine with your holiness, to shine with your perfect love.

A: Yet, we cannot shine without you.

C: So make us mirrors, O God.

A: Help us to reflect the light and love that come only from you,

C: even as these gifts are reflections of our gratitude.

A: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all place give thanks and praise.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

“Eat This Bread” ELW #472

Eat This Bread *Jesus Christ, Bread of Life*

Refrain

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR *Je - sus Christ, bread of life,* those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community
Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Distribution

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

A: Filled with you, O Christ,

C: we are ready to shine!

A: Strengthen in us, by the power of this holy supper, the desire to shine
with your own borrowed light.

C: We are a city on a hill. Let us never be hid!

A: We bless you now and evermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction – from Numbers 6

Sending Hymn – “Rise Shine, You People”

ELW #665

https://youtu.be/sDS6oj_X4Hk

by St. Olaf Choral Ensembles

Dismissal

A: We go to serve our “inside” reflecting our “outside!”

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude – Lillian Pinkston



**Let
God's
Light
Shine
Through
You!**