The Word of God



Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany — *February 8, 2026*

Prayer of the Day

Stand watch over your family, O Lord, that we who depend entirely on your heavenly grace may always be protected in the mighty fortress of your love; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:3-9a

3"'Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you
take no knowledge of it?' Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,
and oppress all your workers. 4Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit
with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard
on high. 5Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to
bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will
you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD? 6Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps 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 him, and
not to hide yourself from your own flesh? 8Then shall your light break forth like the
dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before
you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. 9Then you shall call, and the LORD
will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'"

Psalm 112:1-9

1Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD*
and have great delight in | his commandments!
2Their 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.
4Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;*
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.
5It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending*
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.
6For they will nev- | er be shaken;*
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.
7They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;*
their heart is right; they put their trust | in the LORD.
8Their heart is established and | will not shrink,*
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.
9They have given freely | to the poor,*
and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their | head with honor.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

1I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of
God with lofty speech or wisdom. 2For I decided to know nothing among you except
Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3And I was with you in weakness and in fear and
much trembling, 4and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of
wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5so that your faith might
not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 6Yet among the mature we
do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this
age, who are doomed to pass away. 7But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of
God, 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 heart of man
imagined, 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 who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person,
which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit
of God. 12Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from
God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. [13And we impart
this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting
spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. 14The natural person does not accept the
things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand
them because they are spiritually discerned. 15The spiritual person judges all things,
but is himself to be judged by no one. 16"For who has understood the mind of the
Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.]

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

13{Jesus said,} "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its
saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and
trampled under people's feet. 14You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill
cannot be hidden. 15Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a
stand, 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
who is in heaven. 17Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets;
I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18For truly, I say to you, until
heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is
accomplished. 19Therefore whoever relaxes 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."

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