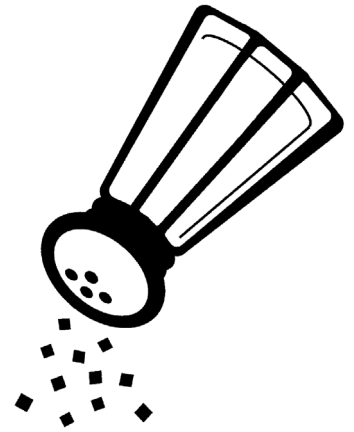


Epiphany 5

February 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

The themes of salt and light pervade this week's lessons. Even though God's wisdom is often hidden from the world, it is shown to those who believe Christ to be God. In the waters of Baptism, we are called to be light to the world as the light of Christ shines through us so the world can see. We are called to be salt, to infiltrate a hurting world with the good news of God's love and mercy.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

Isaiah 58:3-9a

Genuine Devotion

Israel cried out to God in frustration, wondering why their external act of piety in fasting is neither acknowledged nor rewarded by God. God reminded them that empty outward acts of piety are of no value unless they are accompanied by sincere humility and care for others. God always knows our hearts and our motivations.

Psalms 112:1-9

The Upright Will Be Blessed

Light will shine on those who walk the paths of righteousness and justice. The psalmist provided a detailed description of both the acts of righteousness to which God's people are called and the freedom and blessings that arise from walking in the light.

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

Nothing But Christ Crucified

Paul continued to remind the Corinthians that God's wisdom is hidden from plain sight. In spite of our human fascination with knowledge and wisdom, only when we can rightly judge ourselves and others through the wisdom of God's revelation in Christ will we be living a mature faith. The message of Christ's crucifixion is not based in lofty words, but rather in the prime example of God's hidden wisdom.

Matthew 5:13-20

Salt and Light

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount turns our understanding of God's law and God's reign upside down. The law shall not be abolished; instead, Jesus himself is its fulfillment. Jesus' followers are called to let God's light shine through them.

Liturgical Color: Green

During the Season of Epiphany:

- Use the Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise.
- Use the Apostles' Creed for this Sunday in Epiphany.
- Just for fun: Instead of the regular cookies and donuts that are offered during fellowship time, try serving only salty snacks for refreshments this Sunday. See if anyone notices!
- Consider making some small cards with a message of God's love and giving them to people to hand out when they encounter a person who needs hope and light. A company called moo.com has small cards that would be perfect!

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Salt and Light are Found in Me	---	---	---	---	---	web
The Church of Christ in Ev'ry Age	433	---	---	729	---	---
Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing	559	---	528	886	30	30
O Christ, Our Hope	300	---	553	604	---	web
Rise, Shine, You People!	393	---	825	665	---	---
Take My Life and Let It Be	406	---	783	685	233	233
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	---	649	411	815	---	---
Lord of Light	405	---	---	688	---	---
All Things Bright and Beautiful	---	---	878	---	4	4
Peace to Soothe Our Bitter Woes	338	---	---	381	---	web

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

Salt and Light
(CCLI# 7023285)
Church Rise Up
(CCLI# 4514109)
Our God
(CCLI# 5677416)
How Deep the Father's Love For Us
(CCLI# 1558110)
Above All
(CCLI# 2672885)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.