



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
EPIPHANY 5 —YEAR A**

**INVOCATION**

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

**G: Amen**

**PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 111**

**A: Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.**

L: Great are the works of the LORD;

**G: they are pondered by all who delight in  
them.**

L: Glorious and majestic are his deeds,

**G: and his righteousness endures forever.**

L: He has caused his wonders to be remembered;

**G: the LORD is gracious and compassionate.**

L: The works of his hands are faithful and just;

**G: all his precepts are trustworthy.**

L: He provided redemption for his people;

**G: he ordained his covenant forever.**

L: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

**G: all who follow his precepts have good  
understanding.**

**A: Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**READING & MEDITATION**      *see next page*

**PRAYER**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**A: 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.**

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

**A: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will never walk in  
darkness, but will have the light of life."  
(John 8:12)**

**BENEDICTION**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**A: Amen**

## READING AND MEDITATION:

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany:** The Savior's Sermon: Let your light shine! Jesus tells us: You are...so be. You are the light of the world, so be light for the earth. You are the salt of the earth, so be salt for it. Our calling as sons of God means our lives will reflect our new status, and the world around us will be blessed by us. The Church prays that God would help us believe and then do the things that are pleasing in his sight (Prayer of the Day).

## THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:13-20

Jesus' sermon moves from the promises of the Beatitudes to his commands for the Christian life. The Christians blessed by Christ are called to be blessings to the world around us. You are salt, Christ says, so be it: act as the preservative that keeps this word from rotting. You are light, so be it: shine into the darkness of the world that people might see and know how different you are. The message of grace is not a message of antinomianism. Jesus did not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it—first *for us*, and then *in us*. Our righteousness could never be enough—even if we could keep the 613 laws of the Pharisees—but Jesus' righteousness is. Now he commands our light to shine (*λαμπάτω τὸ φῶς ὑμῶν*) that our deeds might give evidence of our faith to the praise of God the Father who created us to do them.

*My takeaways:*

## FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 58:5-9A

Going through the motions of fasting did not make an acceptable fast. Crass hypocrisy thinks a mere outward form of faith is enough. Here God tells his people that the proof of repentance doesn't consist in the form of their fast but in the deeds of their faith. In the same way merely going through the motions of faith in Christ is not an acceptable substitute for a true change of heart. God wants us to fulfill the Law by loving him and our neighbor. Real repentance leads to fruits—living as salt and light. Look at the promises God gives to accompany his call to obedience! Your light will break forth; your healing will quickly appear; your righteousness will be before you and the glory of the LORD will have your back.

*My takeaways:*

## SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5

This is the fourth lesson of the seven-week reading from 1 Corinthians. Although Jesus commands us to be salt and light as a witness for the world, our deeds can never become a source of pride. Paul's ministry among the Corinthians was not based on eloquent words or superior wisdom—but only on Christ and him crucified. Paul's message and preaching didn't display his own works or power, but the Spirit's. Our lives as salt and light always point not to self but to Christ that faith might rest not on men, but on God.

*My takeaways:*

## SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: JOSHUA 24:14-24

Faith responds to God's grace by promising to live as salt and light. Joshua pointed the people of Israel back to the gracious acts of God who had delivered them from every enemy. Now in possession of the Promised Land, God's people could reflect on God's great acts of grace and power in their lives. Seeing all God had done, the people vowed to Joshua to live as salt and light: "We will serve the LORD our God and obey him." As the children of God today, we see that God has defeated enemies far fiercer than the Amorites, Perizzites, and Canaanites. Sin, death, and the devil are vanquished. The gates to the heavenly promised land stand open. Looking at God's great acts of grace and power, we cannot help but join in vowing our obedience to God. We will put away the gods of self and sin, and through the Spirit we will yield our hearts and join with Joshua in his life of salt and light: As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

*My takeaways:*

## SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 1 PETER 2:9-12

The call of God made us part of a new people in order that we might declare his praises. Peter tells us to live lives that are different from the world around us—as different as light is to darkness. Called out of the darkness, we live in this world like foreigners who know that this is not our home. Strangers to the world, we abstain from sin and live such good lives that even the pagans will have to give God glory for his work in our lives. Called into the wonderful light, we let that shine on everyone around us.

*My takeaways:*