

**February 7 - February 8, 2026**  
**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Readings**

**First Reading**

A Reading from Isaiah

Shout 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.

Yet 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 want God on their side.

But they say "Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look,[says the Lord  
you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.  
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.

Is 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?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is 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?

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. Then you shall call,  
and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and the Lord will say, "Here I am."

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
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.

The 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.

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.

**Reader: Word of God, word of Life.**

*Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.*

## Second Reading

### A Reading from First Corinthians

My speech and my proclamation were made  
not with persuasive words of wisdom  
but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power,  
so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet 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 being destroyed.

But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery,  
which God decreed before the ages for our glory  
and which none of the rulers of this age understood,  
for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But, as it is written,  
"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived,  
what the Lord has prepared for those who love God"—

God has revealed to us through the Spirit,  
for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

(pause)

**Reader:**        **Word of God, word of Life.**  
**Congregation:** Thanks be to God.

# Gospel

## A Proclamation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew

Jesus said: "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.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

People do not light a lamp and put it under a bushel basket;  
rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

In 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.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets;  
I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

For 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.

Therefore, 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.

For I tell you, unless your righteousness  
exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees,  
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

**Pastor:**           **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Congregation:** Thanks be to God.