



Church At Home
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany February 8, 2026

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. 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 Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

“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 under foot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but 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.

Homily

I greet you in the name of Jesus, the Light of the World. Amen.

In 1988 an advertising agency developed the trademark slogan for the Nike shoe company: Just Do It. The “Just Do It” campaign allowed Nike to increase its share of the North American sport-shoe business from 18% to 43% in the years 1988 to 1998. Today, alongside the slogan “Just Do It” appears the Nike logo, the famous Swoosh.

I couldn’t help but to think about the Nike slogan this week. Now, I am not endorsing the product, I merely found a connection with this week’s gospel and the news of events found in the news of the past two weeks.

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.”

Take for example the Women’s March of January 21, 2017. This march was aimed at Donald Trump, immediately following his first inauguration as President. It seems some things never change. It was largely due to his statements and position regarded by many as anti-women or offensive. The protest also called for protective legislation and policies regarding human rights and other issues, including women’s rights, immigration reform, healthcare reform, the natural environment, racial equality, freedom of religion, and workers’ rights. Now, regardless of your

opinions, observations, or objections, this was a testament to what you do when you truly believe that you are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. You just do it. You just do it and be it. You don't debate it. You don't second-guess it.

You don't wonder about it. You just go and be it. That's Jesus' point. Jesus isn't saying, "you should be the salt of the earth and light of the world." Or, "you have to be....." Let alone "you better be...." Rather, Jesus is saying, you are. You already are!

Even if you don't know it.

Even if you once knew it and forgot.

Even if you have a hard time believing it. No, you just are. You are salt and light. Period.

In this section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is making a promise and giving out gifts. He is not commanding them about what the twelve should be doing. So often we look to God as the divine law-maker and rule-enforcer not a generous gift-giver. You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. These are sheer blessings!

There have been times in my life, and I believe that I am safe to say that there have been times in your lives, that we have hesitated to be involved; wondering whether or not this is the right time or the right place. Even convinced ourselves; that our one lonely voice can't make a difference.

We have for too long, especially in the church, allowed our light to be hidden, even extinguished. And when this happens, so goes the truth of the Gospel along with our own.

So may I be so bold this day to suggest that it is time we no longer stand by and let the Gospel be overtaken by those who seem to have a louder voice.

May I say it is time for us to no longer hide under a bushel afraid of what people might think.

May I say it is time to speak for the Gospel – the Gospel which speaks that we are worthy and others as well.

You see, the Gospel tells us that you and I are important and God needs us to be salt of the earth.

The Gospel encourages us to speak up for those who have been silenced or have yet to find their voice.

The Gospel will not let us stand on the sidelines but pushes us into the world God so loves that others might know they are loved and welcomed and worthy.

We are children of God. In our baptism, God frees us from sin and death and are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ. At the end of the service a candle is lit and these words are shared,

"Let your light so shine before others that they many see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

We are encouraged to be salt and light. We are told to just do it! Just be it!

The other night, I attended a meeting and the person running the meeting asked at the end, "Did we solve the world's problems?" And before anyone could say a word, a lady filled with wisdom quietly stated, "No we can't!" She knew the problems of the world cannot be solved in a two-hour meeting.....truly impossible! Yet what we can do, is look at the corner of the world that we live in; that has an effect on our lives and look what we can change. We are the salt and one step, yes one step at a time, we can make a difference. It starts in our own lives, in our own home, in our own communities. We can make a difference with God's help.

My friends in Christ. Last week's message....blessed to be a blessing to others.

This week, I invite you to look deep into your lives of the past two weeks and reflect of the variety on ways God has used you to be salt and light.

Your words of encouraging others.

Your faithful work at your place of employment.

Your volunteering you have done.

Your prayers you have offered.

Your promises you've made and kept.

Yes, they may in some incidents seem small. But please don't forget: small is what God most often uses to change the world. You are the salt of the earth and light of the world and we are called to: Just do it! And just be it! Amen.

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.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

Prayers used by permission by Augsburg Fortress – Sundays and Seasons

STTLC Communique

In Our Prayers Today.....Nancy Briscoe, Mike Harrington, Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Bobby Keuhl, Adele Krieger, Tracy Schori and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

Shrove Tuesday February 17 – Pancake Supper – 4 to 6:30 pm.

Mark your calendar. Supper to include: pancakes, maple syrup, sausage, baked beans, fruit and beverages. Adults \$10, Children 10 to 6 years, \$5 and children under 5 years eat free!

