

SERIES A TEXTS

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany/Lectionary 5

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

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. ² 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 delight to draw near to God. ³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, **you** serve **your** own interest on **your** fast day, and oppress all **your** workers. ⁴ Look, **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. ⁵ 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? ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷ 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? ⁸ 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. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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.

Psalm: Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

Praise the LORD! Happy are those who fear the LORD, who greatly delight in his commandments. ² Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. ³ Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever. ⁴ They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. ⁵ It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice. ⁶ For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever. ⁷ They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD. ⁸ Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. ⁹ They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor. ¹⁰ The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and melt away; the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

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

When I came to **you**, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to **you** in lofty words or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among **you** except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³ And I came to **you** in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that **your** faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶ 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 doomed to perish. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"-- ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. ¹⁶ "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

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. ¹⁴ "**You** are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ For I tell **you**, unless **your** righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, **you** will never enter the kingdom of heaven.