

light. In conjunction with the Old Testament Lesson we have come to understand that both salt and light are done for others. Your good works, (those things done through you for others by God) are done to benefit others. Salt is of no value in the shaker, its value is when it is placed on the food being seasoned. Salt gives a flavor to the item being seasoned. Light doesn't do anything for itself, its value is in making the world visible. Light reflects off of the things on which it falls and makes them visible. Our works of the Law of God don't receive a reward for us, they benefit others by proclaiming God, by proclaiming Jesus to the people of the world. You are the light of the world, allowing people to see God as you are a reflection of His life.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Ⓟ Almighty God, Father in Heaven, may Your kingdom come among us, Your humble servants. We thank You for the Revelation of Jesus as Lord and Christ and as king forever. We pray that His dominion may be established from the rising to the setting of the sun. We praise You for sending us a king Whose law is Love, Whose crown is truth, and Whose scepter is righteousness. We pray that one day every nation, society and family will confess that Jesus is Lord and God, the Light of our salvation.

May Your kingdom come to everyone on Earth so that all governments and people bow before Your Son Jesus Christ. Let all the people of the Earth see that He is the only One who can heal all the wounds caused by sin.

We ask that You vent Your righteous anger on those who spread violence among us. Make them know that You are a God whose Law must be obeyed. Bring Your Law and allow Your justice to prevail. Bring down the plans of those who seek to achieve their goals by taking the law into their own hands. Protect us from the violence of terrorists and others who would seek to do us harm.

Because of our sin we have no right to expect Your divine consideration, but we come to You in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, Your Son. By His merit we ask Your forgiveness and Your mercy. Save us from weakness and error, from unfaithful shepherds, heresy and false doctrine.

Though it was not His mission for coming into the world, we know that through His great compassion Jesus did miracles of healing and blessing for those whom He chose. Therefore we ask that You would bring comfort to those who mourn and give patience to the sick. Focus strength on the weak and abundance on the needy. Grant forgiveness to the penitent and sanity to the rebellious.

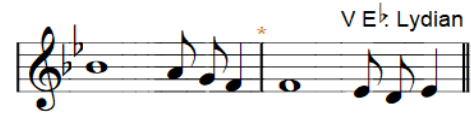
Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)**

We pray in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

© **Amen.**

EPIPHANY FIVE

Chant Tone



Introit

Blessèd are You, — O Lord;* teach me Your — statutes!	In the way of Your testimonies I delight* as much as in all — riches.
How can a young man keep his — way pure?*	I will meditate on Your — precepts* and fix my eyes on Your ways.
By guarding it according to Your word.	I will delight in Your — statutes;* I will not for get Your word.
With my whole heart I — seek You;* let me not wander from Your com — mandments!	Glory be to the Father and to the Son* and to the Holy — Spirit; as it was in the be — ginning,* is now, and will be forever. — Amen.
I have stored up Your word in my heart,* that I might not sin — against You.	
Blessèd are You, — O Lord;* teach me Your — statutes!	Blessèd are You, — O Lord;* teach me Your — statutes!
With my lips I declare* all the just decrees of Your mouth.	<i>(Antiphon, Psalm 119:12; Psalm 119:9-16)</i>

Collect of the Day

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Praise the Lord, all — nations!*
Extol Him, all — peoples!
For great is His | Love toward us,*
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for — ever.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due His name;*
bring an offering and come in | to His courts!

(Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, Creator of all good things and Redeemer of the world, give me a full measure of Your Spirit that I may be a good and faithful steward of Your gifts. Forgive me when I leave matters undone, neglect my talents, and misuse my gifts. Help me do the difficult and bitter tasks as well as the pleasant and joyful duties. Make me diligent in using my energies to full capacity. Help me to be zealous in all my work. Give me ambition for unselfish service. Prompt me to serve You and those around me for Your sake. Bless me with the joy of an unworthy servant who has been made worthy through the merits of Jesus Christ. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

JESUS PROPOSED A COMPLETE ABSURDITY; TURNING ON A LAMP AND THEN PUTTING IT UNDER A BASKET: He was commenting on the absurd nature of hiding your faith from the people of the world. At about 8:45 every Sunday morning the people who lived across the street packed their children in the car and drove away. It didn't take any effort on my part to realize they were headed off to church. If Christianity was a crime would there be enough evidence from your life to convict you? Jesus was expressing the light of the Gospel that shines forth from your life. The Holy Spirit lives in us for our benefit, and for the benefit of the people of world. God is calling people to salvation through the presence of His light shining in you. You are the lamp, let your light shine. We welcome all who have come to worship. We thank you for being a part of this gathering of lights of faith, as we express salvation to the world.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Salt And Light

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 119:12;) Psalm 119:9-16

Psalm 119 (likely written by King David) has a section for every letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Our Introit is the second letter (Beth.) There is a blessedness in obedience to God. We allow the light of our faith to shine when we live in the light of the Commandments of God.

COLLECT

This is a rewrite of the traditional prayer. In today's grammar the word "hope," often means "wish." For that reason, I prefer to insert, "expectation" or "assurance," when "hope" is used as a noun. We state that because of our faith in the work and the person of Jesus, we are guaranteed (or are able to expect) grace; God's undeserved love.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 58:3-9a

In verse 3, the people complain they weren't being properly rewarded for keeping the law. God explained that they were using His Law as a weapon against Him. They were using the Law of God to show how miserable they could make themselves. If you are truly fasting give your food to the poor. If you are taking on a burden lift that burden from another. If you deny yourself the comfort of your house, you would give your house to someone in need. That way you begin to understand what it means to fulfill the law (as Jesus did with His entire life of sacrifice.)

GRADUAL—Psalm 117:1-2a, 96:8

Psalm 117 (the shortest Psalm) is a general song of praise for all God has done for us, in making us over into His people. Psalm 96 looks to the time when the Gentiles will be called as disciples of Jesus.

EPISTLE LESSON—1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Paul presented himself and his conduct as being in accord with His Divine calling. He didn't come trying to bamboozle them with words they couldn't understand, instead he came with the simplicity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Gospel is viewed as only a set of rules for the pious among us or too simple to speak to the wise among us. The fundamentalists say that many things are forbidden by the Gospel (i.e. electricity, television, alcohol.) The liberals say the Gospel doesn't fit our enlightened world (science knows more.) Paul laid those arguments aside and explained the Gospel is a higher wisdom spoken to us by the Holy Spirit, which is the knowledge of God.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 5:13-20

We continue to listen to Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount. There are two metaphors in our Gospel Lesson for this day: You are salt, You are