

# FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 5 FEBRUARY 2017

*These readings are provided, first, so you can re-read and reflect on them during the week, and second, if you wish, to follow the readings during the service.*

## **Gospel continued....**

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

## **Isaiah 58.1-9a**

<sup>1</sup> 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.  
<sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practised  
righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their  
God;  
they ask of me righteous judgements,  
they delight to draw near to God.  
<sup>3</sup> '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.  
<sup>4</sup> 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.  
<sup>5</sup> 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 ?  
<sup>6</sup> 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?  
<sup>7</sup> 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?

<sup>8</sup> 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 rearguard.

<sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say,  
Here I am.

### **Psalm 112**

<sup>1</sup> O praise the Lord. Blessed are they fear the Lord:

and greatly delight in his commandments.

<sup>2</sup> Their children shall be mighty in the land:  
an upright race who will be blessed.

<sup>3</sup> Riches and plenty shall be in their house:  
and their righteousness shall stand for ever.

<sup>4</sup> Light arises in darkness for the upright:  
gracious and merciful are the righteous.

<sup>5</sup> It goes well with those who act generously  
and lend:

who guide their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> Surely they shall never be moved:  
the righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance.

<sup>7</sup> They will not fear bad tidings:  
their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

<sup>8</sup> Their hearts are confident and will not fear:  
they will see the downfall of their enemies.

<sup>9</sup> They give freely to the poor:  
their righteousness stands for ever,  
their head is uplifted in glory.

<sup>10</sup> The wicked shall see it and be angry:  
they shall gnash their teeth and consume away;  
and the hope of the wicked shall fail.

### **1 Corinthians 2.1-13**

<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom.

<sup>2</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

<sup>3</sup> And I came to you in weakness and in fear

and in much trembling.

<sup>4</sup> My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power,  
<sup>5</sup> so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

<sup>8</sup> None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

<sup>9</sup> 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'—

<sup>10</sup> these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

### **Matthew 5.13-20**

<sup>13</sup> '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. <sup>14</sup> 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> 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.

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