



The Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Prelude

Gathering— Come and see! God’s light is shining brightly. God’s light shines in us. When we honor God’s commandments, God’s light shines in us. When we feed the hungry and give to those in need, God’s light shines in us. When we show mercy and compassion, God’s light shines in us. We are the light of the world! God’s light shines in us.~

A Time of Prayer— Luminous God, we give thanks for this Epiphany season of light. When fear casts shadows in our lives, open our hearts to your radiance. Shine on us, shine in us, shine through us. Make us beams of justice, mercy, and love, that we may brighten your world...~

The Lord's Prayer (unison)—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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Hear God’s Word

(God calls out God’s people)

58 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 practised
righteousness and did not forsake the
ordinance of their God; they ask of me
righteous judgements, they delight to
draw near to God.

Isaiah 58:1-12 (NRSV)

(The people argue back)

³ ‘Why do we fast, but you do
not see? Why humble ourselves, but you
do not notice?’

*(Here’s the response of what God really
wants)*

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 rearguard.

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.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NRSV)

14 ‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In 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.

Meditation

Break Forth

Hymn

One Bread, One Body, #689

We Gather at the Table

Set Your Place at the Table—Whatever you have on hand to celebrate communion will work just fine, because this ancient ritual is not about what we use for this meal or where we partake of it. Instead, it is about the act of remembrance. So, gather around the table, prepare your place, and remember

that Christ is in our midst.

Our Invitation—Jesus came as a light blazing in the darkness that we in turn might reflect his light for all the world to see. At Christ’s table we gather to be nourished and nurtured, for the spark in us to be tended. Come to the table to feed the flame of your faith and to receive the grace of Jesus Christ.

A Prayer for Transformation— Loving Creator, you have placed within us the spark of your Divine Light. As people of your justice and mercy you cause us to shine. We long to grow closer to you and to [journey] in your ways. And yet, we usually do whatever we want. We point fingers at others and serve our own interests. We satisfy ourselves with an hour in worship each week when there is so much more you ask of us. When we fail to heal your world, forgive us. Give us hearts that are open, generous, and unafraid, that your divine spark might ignite within us and make us shine as beacons of your kindness and your love. Amen.~

Assurance of Grace— Even when we stray, God continues to guide us. Even when our souls are parched, God provides for us. Even when we call for help, God says, ‘I’m here.’ Praise God!~

The Words of Institution— On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” And so, we remember...we offer ourselves...we proclaim God’s love...

Blessing Our Meal—God of light and love, consecrate this holy meal. Pour out your blessings on it that in these sacred moments we might receive your light. May your presence in this bread and in this cup alight in us a faith renewed. Amen.

We Share the Bread and the Cup – As you eat the bread, remember, “This is the body of Christ broken for you.” Take and eat. As you drink the cup, remember, “This is the blood of Christ shed for you and the forgiveness of sins.” Take and drink.

We Give Thanks—Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.~

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation— God provides abundantly for us and calls us to give generously to those in need. With gratitude for the blessings we have received, let us offer our gifts so that others may be blessed.~

February Benevolence—Southeast Association Eviction Ministry

Doxology

We Give Thanks— Gracious God, through these gifts, given freely—may the hungry be fed, [those without homes] receive shelter, the mistreated be set free. We offer all we have and all we are, that your light might break forth in us. Amen.~

Hymn

Morning Has Broken, #35

Benediction— Shine people of God, shine! Do not hide your light. Stand up and raise your heads. Open your mouths, your minds, and your hearts. Take your worship out of these doors. Be gracious, merciful, and righteous. You are the light of the world. Shine!

Postlude

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow