

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Isaiah 58:1-9:12

Psalm 112:1-10

*Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (v4)*

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Matthew 5:13-20

## 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, & give us the grace & power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Matthew 5:13-20

[Jesus said:] <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 & trampled under foot. <sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, & it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works & 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 fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven & 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, & teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them & 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 & Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How does v20 connect to v17? What is Jesus saying about the law & the prophets? What is he saying about righteousness? See *Luke 24:44-48; Romans 3:21-28; see also Matthew 10:35-36 (Micah 7:6), 13:14-15 21:13, 42, 22:43-44, 26:31; Luke 4:16-21, 22:37, 24:25-27, 44-48; John 6:45, 12:35-43, 13:18, 15:25*
2. V16 is recited over the newly baptized as they are handed a candle. What do *Romans 4:1-5; Ephesians 2:8-10 & James 2:13-26, 3:13* add? See *Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration IV: 7-12, 22-24 FCSD & SC (#6)* available [bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org)

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. If the logic of the Beatitudes (vv1-12) is God’s promise calling us to faithfulness in everyday life, then how does that same kind of thinking apply here?
4. How does that thinking shift your understanding of The Sermon on the Mount as a uniquely Christian approach to ethics & morals? Is Jesus’ teaching about things we perform for God? Does God want us to despair of our own ability to do them? Who benefits from these actions? *Review citations in #1, 2*

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

- 5.\* What do you view as the top three issues for salty & lit-up Christians to address? Hint: The images of “salt” & “light” speak to how Christians live before & with others. They do not speak to personal spiritual disciplines.  
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6. Salt is essential for human sense of taste. How does your congregation help other taste & see that the LORD is good (*Psalms 34:8*)? Before you answer that, review the Small Catechism: Creed, Lord’s Prayer, & Table of Duties.

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Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
Series: What's Up with Baptism?

02.05.23  
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Reveals Truth

*You said you'd strive for justice & peace in all the earth, so saddle up*

-Notes-

**KEY VERSE:** In the same way, let your light shine before others,  
so that they may see your good works  
& give glory to your Father in heaven. (*v16*)

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**-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-**

Jesus says, I am the light of the world;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life. (*John 8:12*)

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- V16 is recited over the newly baptized as they are handed a candle. What do *Romans 4:1-5; Ephesians 2:8-10 & James 2:13-26, 3:13* add? *See Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration IV: 7-12, 22-24 FCSD & SC (#6) available [bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org)*

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