

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Make us be  
like clear windows, God,  
so that our family and friends  
may see the light of your love  
shining through us.

Keep us from being afraid  
to show that we love you,  
and, instead, let all we say  
and all we do  
please you in every way.

We ask you to do this  
through Jesus Christ,  
our Lord.

### FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Both readings focus on “living for others.” Jesus uses two metaphors to describe his disciples: salt and light. In this portion of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus does not instruct his disciples to *become* salt of the earth or light for the world. He tells them that they already *are* so, because of their relationship with him. Just as Christ is the revelation (light) of God, so the Christian is to be the revelation of Christ (light) for the world. The light of the Christian (our relationship with Christ) is shown to the world by the good works that will draw others to God.

### FIRST READING: *Isaiah 58:7-10*

*This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

Our God says,

“Share your bread  
with those who are hungry.  
And when you see people  
who have no home,  
give them a place to live.  
Give clothes to anyone who needs them  
and be kind to your own family.  
Then you will be like the morning light  
that comes after the darkness of night,  
and your sins will be forgiven.

[“You will call upon God to help you,  
and God will say, ‘Here I am!’]”

“Don’t hurt people by lying about them  
or by saying unkind things about them.  
Give bread to the hungry  
and help those who suffer.  
When you do these things,  
your gloom will be changed into joy,  
and you will shine  
with the brightness of God’s light.”

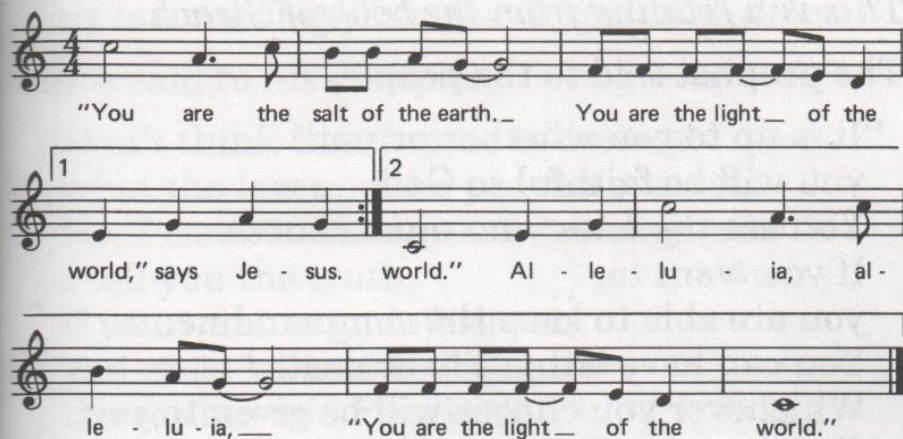
*The Word of the Lord.*

[ ] Reader may omit text that appears in brackets.

### RESPONSE: *Psalm 112*

RESPONSE: (finger snap)  
Leader:  
  
You are the light that shines in our lives...  
All:  
  
— You are the light that shines in our lives...  
VERSES: Leader:  
  
1. We are blessed when we live by your Word. You are the  
2. We are blessed when we give to the poor.  
3. We are blessed when we help those in need.  
4. We are blessed when we do what is just.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



"You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world," says Je - sus. world. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, "You are the light of the world."

## GOSPEL: *Matthew 5:13-16*

*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*

Jesus said to his disciples,

"You are the salt of the earth.  
But what happens  
when salt loses its taste?  
It becomes useless  
and must be thrown away.  
You are the light of the world.  
People don't light a lamp  
and then put it under a basket.  
No, instead they put it up on a stand  
so it will shine everywhere in the house.  
In the same way,  
you must let your light shine for others  
so that people can see  
the good things you do,  
and give praise to your God  
who is in heaven."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

What did you hear in the readings today? When they have had time to share this, ask the children questions about their experiences. For example:

- What kinds of food do you put salt on? Popcorn? French fries? Why do we put salt on certain foods?
- Do you have a night light in your home? Why?
- Do you have lamps in your home? Why?
- Did you ever use a flashlight?
- Have you ever experienced the light going out during a storm?
- Would you ever think of putting boxes over lamps in your home?
- Would you cover a flashlight in a forest?

Jesus tells us that we are the salt of the earth. We are the light of the world. He tells us that we must let our light shine for others to see. Help the children see that the light we received at baptism is the life of Christ within us. This is the light that others must see—that Christ lives in us. This was symbolized by the baptismal candle. We received the light of Christ in our baptism, and now we can be light for others. Others will see our light shining when they see the good works we do.

Isaiah, the prophet, tells us what good works we should do. Ask the children if they remember what Isaiah told us. (You may need to read the text again.) Isaiah tells us that good works are: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, being fair to others, and so forth.

