



Sentence

Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. *Mtt.5.16*

Collect

Israel's jealous God, giver of love's law,
in whom there is no blandness, no dullness of oppression;
liberate us from all that numbs compassion
to find in your commands
light undimmed and flavour unrestrained;
through Jesus Christ, fulfiller of the law. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

The prophet is told to make clear to the people their immoral lives, which co-exist with traditional religious practices, will not gain God's favour. The fast God will respond to is to share God's gifts of food and shelter amongst all the people. God will respond to the people's changed lives.

This says the Lord: 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.

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.

'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.
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.
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?
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?
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?
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.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, 'Here I am.'

Isaiah 58.1-9a

Reader Hear the word of the Lord
ALL **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 112 APBA page 344

This is a wisdom psalm, one of a pair with Ps 111; both teach that the righteous enjoy God's pleasure, an end in itself, and are characterised by generosity and just dealings with people.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

We do not have all the letters between Paul the Church in Corinth. This first letter sets out some early Christian teaching, including Paul's confidence that God's purposes only make sense to those with the spiritual maturity to receive what the world rejects.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery* of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. 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. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 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'— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 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. 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. 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.

1 Corinthians 2.1-13

Reader May your word live in us
ALL **and bear much fruit to your glory.**

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works, and give glory to God.

ALL Alleluia!

Reader The Lord be with you

ALL And also with you

Reader A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew shows how Jesus and those who follow him fulfill the law, the Torah which is God's wisdom for living. Exceeding the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees means understanding the purpose of the law (Torah) beyond merely the words, and living Torah's true spirit.

Jesus went up the mountain and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to teach them: '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.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. 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.

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. 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. 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. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5.13-20

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord
ALL Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer for the Week. Father of all, who gave your only-begotten Son to take upon himself the form of a servant and to be obedient even to death on a cross: give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, that, sharing in his humility, we may come to be with him in his glory; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Bible Readings next week Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Sirach 15.15-20 Ps 119.1-8 1 Cor 3.1-9 Matthew 5.21-27

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Gary O'Dell Armstrong, Ruth Were, Harold Braund, Herbert Fowler, Marian Ransome, Audrey Henry, Peter Howard, Katina Elliott, Marjory Werner, Violet Newton, Geoffrey Parsons *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the Week. *None this week.*

