

FEBRUARY 9, 2020
FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



See the world through the cross of Christ.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light
Monday	Isaiah 58:1-12	False and true worship
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	True wisdom of God
Wednesday	Galatians 2:17-21	Everyone is saved by faith
Thursday	1 Peter 2:21-25	Example of Christ's suffering
Friday	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Christ is God's power and wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 112:1-10	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Matthew 5:21-37	Teachings of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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.

1 Corinthians 2:1-2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, help us to see that through the cross of Christ we are made your people and to be the salt of the earth to share your saving work with others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may the gift of this food remind us of your generosity and your desire for us to provide food for the needy. Amen. (Isaiah 58:7)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you with a generous heart that trusts in God. (Psalm 112:5-7)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Let Us Ever
Walk with Jesus*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When have you helped someone go through a sad time?
- Talk or think about a sad time you have experienced. Who helped you?
- The cross of Christ is about Jesus' suffering and death so that we may know God's eternal love. How does knowing that Christ suffered help you in daily life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16.

Paul contrasts the strength and wisdom of the world with the strength and wisdom of God. What is most important is knowing "Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles" because it is "the power of God and the wisdom of God." The Corinthians are fixated on their spiritual gifts and special wisdom, but that only divides the community. Paul wants to unite the community as the body of Christ in the world. Spiritual gifts are all based on the work of God, not on people's own spiritual powers. Therefore, Christians are not to get caught up on who has the "better" spiritual gifts. What does matter is to know that the uniqueness of the spiritual life is to see everything through the death and resurrection of Christ, which is the true wisdom and strength that gives faith, hope, and love to a world in need. How does seeing the world through the cross of Christ help you as a follower of Jesus?
Pray: **God of wisdom and might, give us faith to see in the cross of Christ your healing and redeeming work in the world. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus tells his followers "you are the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13). Think about what this means for us. In Jesus' day salt was used for many things from preserving and flavoring food to using it as money. Make a bowl of popcorn and set aside a salt shaker. Place several pieces of popcorn on a napkin. For each piece of popcorn, name someone who is in need. Then shake salt on the popcorn and as you taste its saltiness think about how "you are the salt of the earth" and can add flavor and a little something extra to the lives of those who are in need.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Faith is caught more than it is taught. Praying in the faith community is visible as we kneel, fold hands, or bow our heads. The ritual of prayer is important and something that is "caught" through years of worship together. The ritual of daily prayer in our homes is important also. Make a list of the different ways you pray in your home. Practice getting "caught" in the act of prayer by family members or when others visit to establish a tradition in your home that many will learn and look forward to doing with you for generations to come.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org