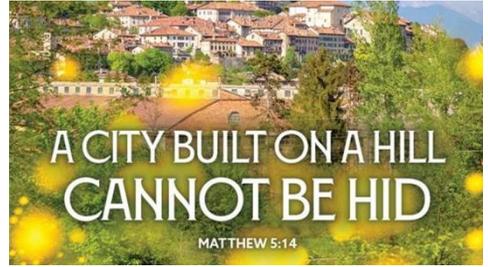


The Readings on This Day

****Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

On consecutive Sundays after the Epiphany or after Trinity Sunday we examine our lives in light of Matthew's rigorous understanding of righteousness. To be light in the world, we must reflect the Light who is Christ.



[Isaiah 58:1-9a \[9b-12\]](#)

This prophetic passage is appointed as background to Matthew's words. Jesus reiterates the prophet's call to justice and the biblical metaphor of light. Christians see in Jesus the continuation and culmination of the Jewish hope for righteousness. This passage is also an optional reading for Ash Wednesday.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

[Psalm 112:1-9 \[10\]](#): Psalm 112 is an acrostic poem that praises the Lord and blesses those who obey the commandments. They are light in the darkness, and so we are ready to hear Matthew about the light of our baptism. We sing this psalm in response to Isaiah's call to righteousness, in hope that in Christ we can live out this call.

[1 Corinthians 2:1-12 \[13-16\]](#)

The "spirit of the world" that Paul writes about is precisely what Matthew is urging Christians to reject in favor of a radically transformed life in the Spirit. Christians see in Paul's description of the actions of God, Jesus Christ, and the Spirit the foundation of the later doctrine of the Trinity.

[Matthew 5:13-20](#)

Christians receive the call to be salt and light, for the gospel means to transform not merely the self or the members of the church, but the entire world. The impossibility

of our living such a perfect life makes us rely on the mercy of God and the power of the Spirit.