

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

8th February 2026

10:00 a.m.

Before the service, speak with God; during the service, let God speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

Dear parishioners and friends of St Bartholomew's,

In today's Gospel from Matthew, immediately after the beatitudes, Matthew 5.1-12 with which he began the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus takes us on our missionary journey to the whole world. It is not just a challenge for the people of his day.

Fasting and alms giving are useless if injustices continue to be practiced and allowed. The beatitudes are not just for us personally but are to change the world. Christians are to be salt for the whole world giving flavour, meaning, sustenance and hope. We are also to be light to the world. Imagine if we lived in a world of darkness where we had to feel our way, imagine shapes and sizes and not be without the constant love care and support of others.

During my trips to the outback, I often wake early and sit up to see the sun rise and at night watch the sun sink in the west and the moon take shape. They are all reminders to us of the privilege of life and the beauty of creation that includes our stewardship of the earth's resources and care and support of others. Light and salt add spice and illumination to our human purpose and meaning as being for others at all times.

Fr. Ray

INTROIT HYMN, AM 584 All my hope on God is founded

Sentence. Is not this the fast that I choose, says the Lord: to loose the bonds of injustice, and to let the oppressed go free.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Faithful God, you have appointed us your witnesses, to be a light that shines in the world: let us not hide the bright light you have given us, but tell everyone your love revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

1ST READING, Isaiah 58.1-9a

58 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.

² 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.

³ '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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,

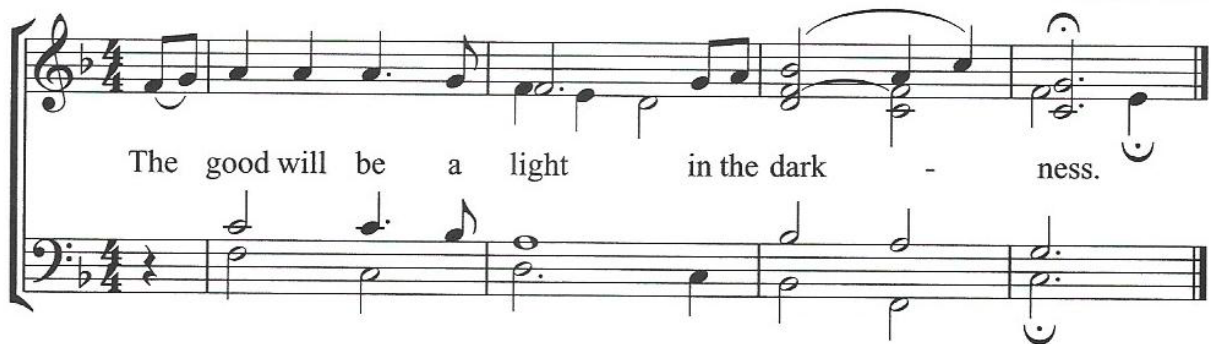
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?
⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator^[a] shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.
⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

For the word of the Lord

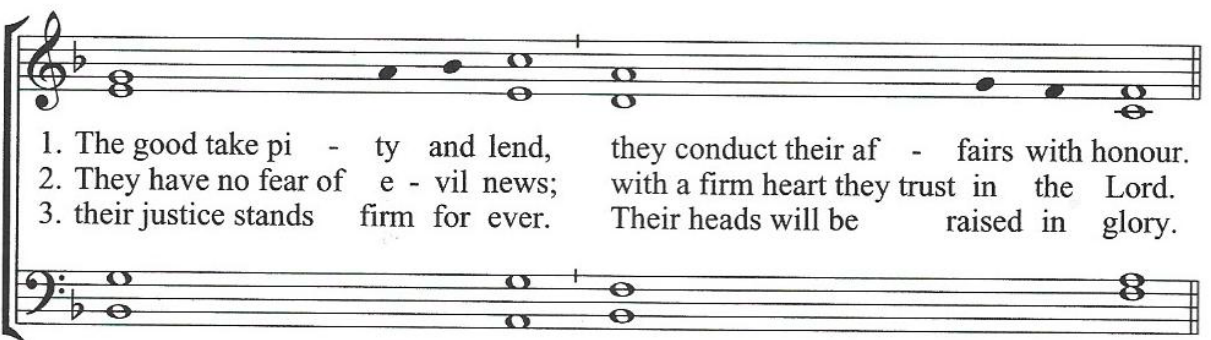
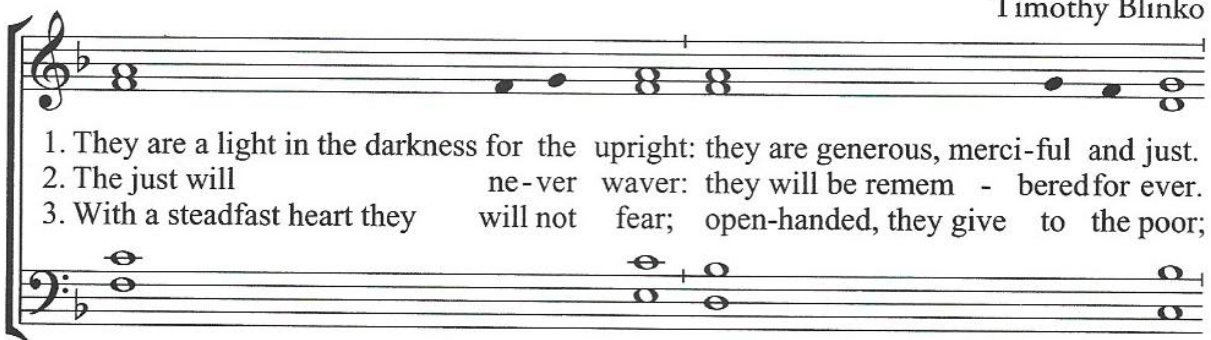
Thanks be to God

Psalm 112

Keith Duke



Timothy Blinko



SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 2.1-13

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony^[a] of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom^[b] but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

The True Wisdom of God

⁶ 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 being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

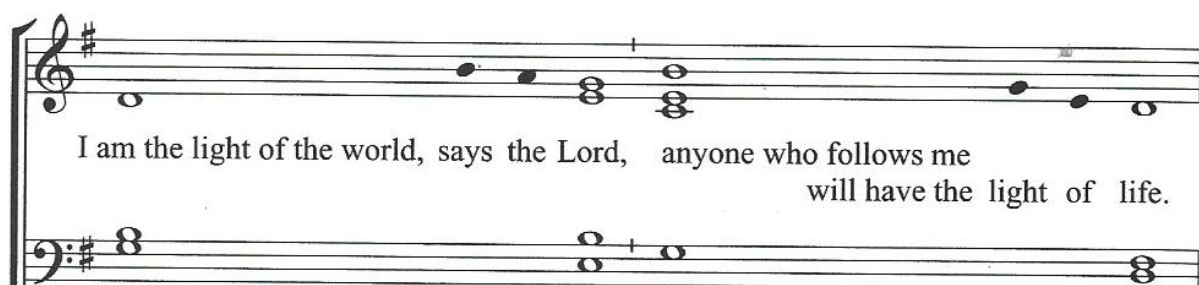
"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ^[c]

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



Alleluia Alleluia, Alleluia

The Lord be with you.
And also, with you.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 5.13-20
✠ Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

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.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ 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.

The Law and the Prophets

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, ^[a] not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks ^[b] 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. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

For the Gospel of the Lord:
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Intercessions

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD: Peace in the Middle East, Sudan, Congo Venezuela and Ukraine for the Jewish community for the Richmond Churches Food and for all organizations that provide safety and relief during this summer season and all those in need.

FOR THE SICK, RECOVERING, AND THOSE WHO GRIEVE Bruce, Sharon, Carol, Jack, Nanette, Liam, Craig, Helen, Marilyn, Alan, Kay

FOR THOSE RECENTLY DECEASED:

FOR THOSE WHOSE YEAR'S MIND OCCURS THIS week, John Brady, Robert Bridge, Lorraine Clement, John Doherty, Jean Hakainsson, Charles Perk, Michael Hoare, Beverley Kennedy, Marlene Moore

Offertory Hymn: AM 379 God has Spoken by his prophets

Recessional Hymn: AM 725 Make me a channel of your peace

Rosters

| 8th February | | 15th February |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1st Reading | Greg Scott | Prue Borthwick |
| 2nd Reading | Kathy Kozlowski | Laura Pumphrey |
| Intercessions | Martyn Smith | Fr Ray |
| Euch. Assistant | Sarah Harrison | Megan Harrison |
| Welcomers | Martyn Smith Ann Czech | Kim Ricketts Ann Czech |
| Hospitality | Michael McGirr Jenny Scott | Andre & Lee |

Notes

Today @ 11.30 am Centenary Committee meets
Book club the 17th February at 7.30pm
Parish Council meets on the 19th February at 7.30 pm
Lent is not far away. Ash Wednesday 18th February
Evening mass at 7.30pm